

May 28.

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The Leader.

"The one Idea which History exhibits as evermore developing itself into greater distinctness is the Idea of Humanity—the noble endeavour to throw down all the barriers erected between men by prejudice and one-sided views; and by setting aside the distinctions of Religion, Country, and Colour, to treat the whole Human race as one brotherhood, having one great object—the free development of our spiritual nature."—*Humboldt's Cosmos.*

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VOL. VI. No. 267.]

SATURDAY, MAY 5, 1855.

[PRICE SIXPENCE.]

News of the Week.

THE week which begins with the announcement of the attack on the FRENCH EMPEROR closes with the attack on the British Government and "the system," and the latter event has already become far more interesting to us than one which in these rapid days is already a week old. The meeting to be held in the City to-day would be important in itself; for London, which appoints Lord JOHN RUSSELL to his place in the House of Commons, has always been regarded as a strong test of any movement that has become general—the Metropolis seldom being the first to move. The terms of the requisition by which the meeting is convened strikingly resemble in their tone and purpose the resolutions which Mr. LAYARD placed upon the notice paper of the House of Commons last week. The requisition is signed by many of the leading City men: they are acting in unconcealed co-operation with the independent Members of the House of Commons; and the meeting is avowedly the commencement of an endeavour to organise a great association throughout the country. The provisional management, it is said, already has 10,000. of a subscription at its command.

The crack of PIANORI's pistol, answering ominously to the hallelujah of our aristocracy and mob, has revealed to the conspirators of the *coup d'état* the abyss beneath their feet. To England, also, it has revealed an abyss, into which our politicians of course will plunge. Much stale commonplace has been talked about the threads on which the destinies of nations hang; but it is the business of statesmen and diplomatists to prevent the destinies of nations from hanging on threads. The flash of that same pistol has discovered the pregnant fact that the most beloved of monarchs rides about the streets of his capital alone, guarded by the affection of his subjects—and by a select corps of guards in various disguises armed with daggers. ALESSANDRI was one of them. They are called the Corsican guard. Eye-witnesses assert that it was not only "civilisation" that started and turned pale—deadly pale—at the sudden vision of retribution. All Frenchmen unite in rejoicing that PIANORI missed his aim: the Bonapartists for courtly reasons, others for reasons less courtly. The speech of LOUIS NAPOLEON to his Senate on the occasion is that of a moral monomaniac, who imagines that

everything is permitted to him, and that no harm can happen to him till he has fulfilled his "mission." And this is the man in whose game England—sober and law-loving England—has embarked all her fortunes. Our religious newspapers deserve great credit for the grace and readiness with which they worship fate and adore the star of an infidel.

The Emperor's trip to the Crimea is abandoned for two reasons—first, that the Senate would not answer for the consequences to the most popular of empires; and, secondly, because the object of the trip was to reap other men's laurels, and unfortunately there are no laurels to reap. Victory not having been won for him, the generalissimo remains at home, thereby damaging his "star" in the eyes of the army, to whom he had promised an avatar. No little BOILEAU will be able to sing of the little LOUIS QUATORZE—*C'est Jupiter en personne, ou c'est le vainqueur de Sebastopol.*

The removal of NAPOLEON would have made a difference in the progress of the alliance exactly the opposite of that which would be produced if the siege of Sebastopol were to succeed. As it is, failing the attack of the assassin or the success of the siege, matters at Vienna seem to go on very much as before—slowly and doubtfully. It is indeed reported by the *Pays* and the *Constitutionnel* that the Austrian Government had signed rather an important convention before M. DROUYN DE LHAUS quitted Vienna. This convention stipulates that the Four Points of guarantee, laid down in the protocol of the 28th of December, cannot be separated; and that the refusal of Russia to accept any one of these indivisible Four Points would create a *casus belli* provided for by the treaty of alliance of December 2. The *Pays* also expresses its belief, that immediately after the conclusion of this convention, Austria sent off an ultimatum to Russia, putting her own interpretation upon the Third Point, and signifying that the refusal of Russia to accept it would oblige the Cabinet of Vienna to declare war. This news comes under the head of "important if true." It looks plausible. It was not included in the explanation of Lord JOHN in the House of Commons on Tuesday, nor in those of Lord CLARENDON in the House of Lords on Thursday; but Lord PALMERSTON, last night, "came out strong" in the pacific line!

The siege is really becoming a bore. The bombardment, renewed with such an enormous weight of metal, was relaxed at the period of the latest correspondence, in order to economise the store

of ammunition; and the telegraph subsequently states that it had been dropped for a time, but awaited reinforcements. So that, notwithstanding the disastrous loss of months during the winter, the commanders had not metal enough to carry on the siege during the interval required for the arrival of reinforcements! Still more ominous than any reports of this kind is a certain silence maintained by Government, notwithstanding its being in receipt of daily telegraphs from Lord RAGLAN. Unless, indeed, that silence exists on Lord RAGLAN's part; but then why is he silent?

The Sardinian contingent seems at last to have accomplished all preliminaries to its departure. The steam transports have taken the soldiers on board; and the Genoese ladies, as well as men, are charmed at the comfort and courtesy which they found on board the vessels of the rough English—where some of them scarcely ventured to trust themselves. The Sardinian Government has undergone rather an unpleasant reverse. There are difficulties in getting the Senate to acquiesce in the arrangement of the Convents Bill, and the CAVOUR Cabinet resigned, leaving General DURANDO the task of forming a new one; but he failed to reconcile the clergy, and the CAVOUR Cabinet has resumed amidst a serious agitation.

One of the most promising diversions for the Allies is the insurrection of the peasantry in the Ukraine. The first accounts represented this as provoked by a want of salt, which is a government monopoly, and therefore not likely to be demanded by the insurgent peasants from their nobles. A more probable story is, that the enormous exaction from the peasantry to supply the war have at last become intolerable. The insurrection will probably be put down, but it is perhaps not an unimportant sign of the extent to which the pressure falls upon the humble classes throughout Russia.

Our own Parliament has been busy, but has not accomplished much work beyond forwarding the Government measures, and they proceed as if our Government were veritably strong. No doubt it is so, comparatively, in contrast with the House of Commons. The Loan Bill, with its easy promise to pay a million a year during peace, has got clear of the lower House, without mutilation, and is handed over to the Lords. The Newspaper Stamp Bill has been shorn of its copyright clause, but is otherwise unaltered.

The Education Bill, in which Sir JOHN PAKINGTON laudably endeavoured to reconcile the

claims of sectarianism with the national duty of educating the people has been kicked into one vast hole by his dear friend Mr. HENLEY. So the young Tories and the Tory press are disappointed in their hopes of Tory progress, and the crab will not move forward after all. Mr. HENLEY concluded, amid loud cheers, with the neat sentiment that the Bible, from Genesis to Revelations, tells us that the tree of knowledge is not the road to life. Of course not: bestial ignorance is the road to life, pointed out by Heaven, and patronised by the Squire.

The amended Cambridge Bill has come out, without any national improvement. The Constitution remains the same. If Cambridge wants such a constitution instead of common freedom, it must be as queer as Spain, where two and two make five. There are to be eight Commissioners, three of whom are to be a quorum; a bad arrangement, since the same business may obviously come before totally different bodies at different meetings. The Commissioners, as usual in such cases, are grantees, whose names sound well in Parliament, but who cannot be expected to give their time and thoughts to the work.

Mr. SPOONER has made an attempt to pull down an Irish school—the College of Maynooth. His plea was the old one—that Maynooth trains a peculiarly low and ultra-Roman class of clergy; and he fortified his case in this instance by showing that the report of the Commissioners had been garbled by some of the witnesses, who had had proofs of their evidence to correct. For all good purposes, Sir ROBERT PEEL laid that subject at rest in 1845, and no Government which cares for its own credit or safety will endeavour to reopen the question. Maynooth is the Sebastopol of Ireland, and has to be “turned” in another way. It is not by storming that college, but by trusting to the public education, which is more complete in Ireland than in England, and by waiting the effect of the Queen’s Colleges in creating a mass of educated enlightenment for Ireland, that any bigotry which survives in the asylum at Maynooth may be swamped.

Another kind of education has been bestowed upon the English public this week. BURANELLI was hanged at the Old Bailey on Monday morning. His little girl has become the object of a very meritorious charity, and she will be provided for. His worst anxiety, therefore, must have been alleviated before death. A priest refused to administer the last offices of religion, unless he would forswear the earthly attachment under whose impulse he had committed the crime of murder. So, BURANELLI was, perforce, compelled to seek the kind offices of Father GAVAZZI, and Protestantism may boast of its casual convert! At the scaffold the prisoner behaved well. The professional gentleman who assisted his departure from this world—Mr. CALCRAFT, did not succeed so completely as usual, deceived, it is said, by the extremely light weight of the convict. The crowd was deeply moved by horror and pity. The paroxysm spectacle lasted for a few minutes; and then the crowd dispersed to its usual business or recreations—how much the wiser on the subject of murder it would be difficult for any man to understand!

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

THE SARDINIAN CONTINGENT.

THE Earl of ELLENBOROUGH, on Monday, wished to know whether any convention exists with Sardinia as to the supply of food for her contingent, and whether the Commissary-General in the Crimea, when he was applied to, replied that he should be unable to supply the required amount of provisions.—Lord PANMURE said that there is an understanding with the Sardinian Government that after the first month the British Commissariat should be charged to supply rations for the Sardinian troops. Commissary-General Filder had at first expressed alarm on this point; but subsequent inquiries had proved that the resources of Turkey are amply sufficient to provide food for any number of troops that might be sent thither.

The Militia (Ireland) Bill was read a third time, on the motion of Lord PANMURE.

THE GUARDS.—OFFICIAL MISMANAGEMENT.

THE Marquis of SALISBURY having called the attention of Lord PANMURE to the want of management which had been shown in the War Department in the case of the Guards recently despatched to the Crimea in the steamship Alma, Lord PANMURE excused the mistakes that had been made, and, with respect to the complaint that the Guards had been sent out armed with the old musket, said that he could not believe such a statement to be true.—Lord WYNDHAM assured the noble lord that the statement was true.—The Duke of CAMBRIDGE said he was afraid it was too true that the Guards had been sent out armed with the old musket. A large portion of their clothing and shoes had also been left behind; and there could be no doubt that some great mismanagement had occurred in the embarkation of these troops.—Lord PANMURE said that it was very desirable that such cases should be made public, as otherwise the heads of departments would not be made aware of the real facts. He had taken steps to express his opinion on the subject to those who were in fault.

THE BALAKLAVA TELEGRAPH.

In answer to Mr. WARNER, Sir CHARLES WOOD stated that the telegraphic line from the seat of war is now complete with the exception of crossing the Danube; and that a despatch had that day been received from Lord Raglan, dated the day before, which did not contain any news, and most certainly conveyed no intimation of the raising of the siege of Sebastopol—nothing more than a temporary discontinuance of the fire of the batteries. He added, in reply to Mr. GHOUGH, that the Government would publish any information it might receive from the camp “whenever there is anything of sufficient interest to render it desirable.” This statement was received with ironical cheers.

SALARIES IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

Mr. MACARTNEY asked whether it was intended to charge the Income-tax upon the full amount of those salaries in the civil service which were subject to deductions for the Superannuation Fund, and whether the Government intended to propose any bill to regulate the Superannuation Fund?—The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER replied that the Government were not prepared to exempt from the Income-tax those civil servants who had taken office subsequent to the Superannuation Act, because it would be necessary, if they did so, to extend a similar exemption to other public officers who, although they did not contribute to the Superannuation Fund, might be supposed to lay aside a part of their annual income to insure their lives or provide for the contingencies of life. A bill to alter the Superannuation Act was under consideration; but he could not mention a day upon which it would be introduced.

THE VIENNA CONFERENCES.

Mr. DISRAELI asked Lord JOHN RUSSELL (who had just taken the oath and his seat consequent on his re-election for the City of London) whether it was his intention to lay on the table any papers relating to his recent mission to Vienna, or in any other way to place the House in possession of the proceedings of the last two months in connexion with the Conferences.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL said the protocols of the Conferences, which would be very shortly laid upon the table, would convey to the House information of the substance of the negotiations. In the meantime, he stated that the negotiations with respect to the first two of the Four Points lasted until the 26th of March, when the Third Point came under consideration, and the Austrian plenipotentiaries suggested that those of Russia should make proposals themselves; but the latter replied that they had no instructions to do so, and asked for time to refer to their Government. The Conference was accordingly adjourned, and was not resumed until the 17th of April, when the Russian plenipotentiaries stated that they had received instructions not to take the initiative, but to hear and discuss any proposal submitted to the Conferences. On the 19th, the plenipotentiaries of Great Britain and France, supported by those of Austria, laid before the Conference their propositions, which were rejected on the 21st by the Russian plenipotentiaries, who, on their part, offered proposals which the other plenipotentiaries deemed unacceptable, and they declined to discuss them.

Mr. DISRAELI then endeavoured to obtain a promise from the Government that they would produce some preliminary papers, such as the despatches of our ambassadors and plenipotentiaries; but Lord PALMERSTON objected to this, and dexterously eluded giving any information as to what additional documents would be produced. Mr. Disraeli’s cross-questionings, and Lord Palmerston’s evasive answers, elicited the usual Parliamentary explosions of laughter.

In answer to a question from Mr. BASS, Lord

JOHN RUSSELL said that Turkey was in accord with the proposals of England, France, and Austria.

LOAN BILL.

On the order of the day for the consideration of this bill as amended, Sir FITZROY KELLY moved that the 22nd clause be struck out. By that clause the Government called on the House to pledge itself to the payment of one million sterling a year in time of peace, till the amount of the loan was repaid. Such a pledge was unconstitutional; he did not think that even those who advocated it, really and conscientiously believed it would ever be *de facto* redeemed. Past experience showed them that such a pledge would not be redeemed. How could we tell whether it would be practicable to redeem this pledge, or, if practicable, whether it would be politic? He considered that it would be impracticable, and he, therefore, made the present motion.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER had explained on a former occasion the grounds of the clause. The Government, when engaged in negotiating a new loan for so large a sum as sixteen millions, had wished to establish as far as possible the principle that no part of the loan should remain a perpetual charge on the revenue. They found it impossible to contract a loan for so large a sum in terminable annuities; and if they had made an unsuccessful attempt to do so, it would have placed them in such a position that they could not afterwards have contracted any loan on such favourable terms as they had now obtained. He then proceeded to show that there were no other means of contracting the loan to which the House would have been likely to assent; but he admitted that, if any unexpected exigency should arise during the period to which the clause refers, it might be necessary for Parliament to suspend its operation. Even, however, in the present year, when the House is contracting a new loan, as large a sum as 2,000,000, is being applied in the extinction of debt; and Sir G. C. Lewis could not but think that this clause affords a fair prospect of liquidating the debt which is now being created.

Mr. GLADSTONE spoke in favour of the amendment, and repeated the objections to the clause which he had urged on a previous night. He observed that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had said there was at all events one advantage in this clause, namely, that it would secure the actual application of the money to the reduction of the national debt. He (Mr. Gladstone) did not think that effect was certain. In the year after the conclusion of the war the Government of the day would either have a surplus or they would not. If they had a surplus, the clause would be entirely inoperative, or rather it would do positive mischief. As the law now stands, the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be bound to apply the million for the reduction of the debt, in whatever form he might think most expedient, taking his choice among all the commodities in the market; whereas, under the clause, he would have to confine himself to Three per Cent. Consols, and it might become his duty to render that provision nugatory by a roundabout process, which, in Mr. Gladstone’s opinion, would be very objectionable.

The motion was supported by Mr. HENLEY, Mr. LABOUCHERE, Mr. RICARDO, Mr. DISRAELI, Mr. MCGREGOR, and Mr. CARDWELL (the last of whom observed that, if a similar clause had been adopted in connexion with the loans contracted in the last war, we should now be paying, in the liquidation of debt alone, a larger sum than was expended in the year 1853 in all the services of the country). The speakers in favour of the original clause were, in addition to the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, Mr. BARING, Mr. JAMES WILSON, Mr. GLYS, and Lord PALMERSTON; and the chief argument employed was that it is but honest to provide for the gradual extinction of a debt, instead of leaving it a perpetual burden upon posterity.—Upon a division, there appeared—For the clause, 210; against, 111; majority, 99. Sir FITZROY KELLY’s motion was therefore lost.

INCOME-TAX BILL.

The House having gone into Committee on the Income-tax Bill, Mr. HILLYARD moved, and Colonel SMITHORP seconded, an amendment to the effect that the additional tax paid upon incomes between 1000 and 1500 per annum should be 10d. instead of 1d. in the pound.—This was agreed to by the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, and adopted by the Committee.

NEWSPAPER STAMP DUTIES BILL.

The House then went into Committee on this bill; and the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER stated that he was willing to omit clauses 4, 5, and 7, and to make certain alterations in clause 6. Those clauses had reference to registration and security, and had been postponed from the previous reading, owing to some difficulties which had been suggested.—Clause 6 was then agreed to with certain verbal amendments rendered necessary by the omission of the other clauses.—Two clauses, respectively limiting the privilege of postal transmission to fifteen days from the date of publication, and referring to the Postmaster-General all disputed questions

touching the definition of what constitutes a newspaper, were agreed to.—A clause, enabling the registered proprietor of a newspaper to sue and be sued, which was objected to by Mr. G. BUTT on the ground that, as in other joint-stock companies, all the proprietors should be equally liable, was postponed to the third reading.—The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER then moved the introduction of a clause giving the protection of a copyright of twenty-four hours to certain articles in newspapers. He thought this protection necessary considering they were about to expose the established daily papers, which are produced at a very large outlay, to an excessive competition with cheap journals, which would live upon pirating their more honest contemporaries. He, therefore, moved the insertion of a clause, enacting that the proprietors of every newspaper should, for the purpose of protection against piracy, be entitled to a twenty-four hours' copyright in every original article, letter, paragraph, communication, and composition which should be for the first time published in such newspaper in this country; that a penalty, not less than 5*l.* nor more than 30*l.*, should be imposed upon offenders, and that a power of summons should be given to stipendiary magistrates and justices, who should be entitled to adjudicate at once.

Mr. WHITZLUND observed that this clause proposed to place a check upon printing, and to limit the benefit of the electric telegraph. It was satisfactory, however, to know that the clause was wholly impracticable. He admitted that original articles should be protected; but there ought not to be a copyright in bare facts.—Mr. PHINN spoke in favour of the clause, and said that the London papers published at half-past six in the morning, and that by half-past eight or nine a newspaper might be circulated through the town, containing all the leading articles, all the chief items of news, and all the miscellaneous contents. He contended that this would be a great grievance and wrong. He thought, nevertheless, that a copyright of twenty-four hours' duration was too long, and that six or eight hours would be sufficient. Further, he thought distance should be considered as well as time.—Mr. J. G. PHILLIMON believed it was impossible to establish any right of property in news. It would puzzle the most acute literary powers to define the nature of the copyright granted by the clause.—Mr. BENTINCK thought there should be no copyright in anonymous articles, and held that the proposed clause would ruin the whole country press.

Mr. MILNER GIBSON recognised the question of abstract justice involved in the clause; but he looked upon it as utterly impracticable. Piracy exists already, and he did not see that it would increase under the new state of things. The question was entirely apart from the question of the penny stamp; and he was disposed to wait and see if the evil was one to require legislation. His friend, the member for Stoke (Mr. Ricardo), had been charged by the *Times* with piracy for sending, in his capacity as chairman of the Electric Telegraph Company, news to the country papers which had been derived from the *Times*; but he would leave it to Mr. Ricardo to explain the precise course of proceeding. He believed that all the telegraphs are worded in this way: "The *Times* says so and so." These things could not be stopped. The editor of a country paper has a collector of news in London, just as the *Times* has a collector of news at Vienna or elsewhere. The collector of news in London sends down what news he hears, and it would be monstrous to make him responsible for a piece of news which he might have obtained from an independent source, and which might also have appeared in a London paper.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL, in defending the clause, acknowledged that there was force in some of the objections urged against it: still, it should be recollected that there is nothing about "news" in it, and that therefore the opponents of the proposal had been arguing against what did not exist. The clause endeavoured to establish nothing more than mere justice to authors in newspapers. Two or three years ago, a paper was published called the *Politician*, which appeared about half-past nine in the morning, and which consisted of all the leading articles of the morning papers and their most important announcements. The principal newspapers combined in an endeavour to put it down; but from the state of the law it was found difficult and hardly possible to accomplish this by legal proceedings. The Solicitor-General admitted that the remedy for this state of things involves difficulties; but they might be overcome.

Mr. MOSKTON MILNES hoped the Solicitor-General would pause to consider the subject before pressing it on the Committee; and Lord STANLEY held that it is impossible, by the utmost legal ingenuity, to distinguish between facts and comments, and that it would be absurd to regard a colourable abridgment of matter as piracy, since two writers might accidentally strike out the same line of argument and only differ in words, and in that case the one might be accused of pirating from the other.

Mr. W. J. FOX contended that the London daily newspapers should have an interest in that for which they have paid, and that the country journals ought to give a money consideration for the news which they derive from their metropolitan contemporaries. Some persons seemed to despise newspaper writing because it is anonymous. But why is it anonymous? It is so for the convenience of those arrangements by which several writers are made to co-operate as one body. Their joint action in the production of a newspaper is analogous to a cabinet council, for the conclusions of which no individual minister is responsible. Why, anonymous contributions to the newspapers became some of the classics of the country. The "Letters of Junius" were anonymous contributions to a newspaper, and the "Letters of Runnymede" produced considerable effect, and would have their importance in the political history of the times. (*Hear, hear, and laughter.*) It is owing to the feeling created by communications of this kind that that inquiry is now going on, without which they would not have known the real causes that reduced our army in the Crimea to such a forlorn condition.

Mr. RICARDO opposed the clause, and said that when the list of the killed and wounded at the battles of Alma and Inkerman arrived, before half an hour that list was transmitted to all the principal towns in the United Kingdom—to Aberdeen and Glasgow on the one hand, and to Plymouth and Exeter on the other. He must say that he should look with great alarm to any law that should prevent intelligence of that kind, which was of public and universal interest, from being transmitted through the country as soon as possible. He had no fear of cheap newspapers corrupting the morals of the people. On the contrary, he thought nothing would tend more to improve their morals. At any rate, it was for them to say whether or not they would buy.

Mr. BRIGHT said, in answer to charges of piracy which had been brought against a Manchester threepenny daily paper, that that very paper published in Manchester the news of the battle of Alma just one day before it was published in London. The newspapers in Manchester (he asserted) are published by persons having large capital. Some of them have able correspondents in continental cities; and he asked if, when these correspondents transmit messages by telegraph, which may be nearly the same, or quite the same, as those transmitted to the London newspapers, is that to be held to be a piracy; and if the proprietors of the London journals might go down to Manchester and summon these respectable men, the editors of the Manchester papers, before two justices of the peace?

Mr. DISRAELI was opposed to a copyright in news because he did not think that it was possible, or, if possible, that it would be vexatious. But he held that it was but fair to give every available protection to the costly productions of the London daily press; and therefore, making an especial reference to the *Times*, he should support the amendment that would be proposed, that newspapers should circulate through the post without any limitation of weight. He believed that there was no fear for the honest paper even without a copyright; for the public would always have the best article and the earliest intelligence. With respect to anonymous writing, he observed that some of the noblest books in the world had been published anonymously.—Lord LOVAIN was of opinion that the press should not be protected because it deals in "all sorts of calumnies" and is "a libeller of private character;" and the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, after the expression of the House's feeling upon the subject, withdrew the clause.

Mr. MILNES then moved the insertion of a clause, giving the privilege of transmission and retransmission by the post to every periodical publication published at intervals not exceeding seven days, and the superficies of which shall not exceed 3500 inches of printed matter, for a penny stamp. Mr. Milnes passed a very high eulogy on the character of the press, and said of some members of it that they neither flatter the vanity, heighten the prejudices, nor defend the errors of any political clique, but hold the balance between the fluctuating opinions of society, and are so conducted, that he could not lay them down without the impression that he had been conversing with the wisest and most liberal minds of the time. When confident, their confidence is justified by events; when doubtful, it is because the evidence is imperfect.—Mr. COWAN said that, at the request of his friends, he would abandon his amendment in favour of an unrestricted size.—Lord STANLEY called attention to the discrepancy between charging a penny for the half ounce of a letter, and allowing a newspaper, weighing six ounces, transmission and retransmission for the same sum.—Mr. LOWE, in answer to this, said that if they took the letters as their guide, and put the same rate on newspapers, they would exclude newspapers from the post; if they took the newspaper for their guide, they would make an immense invasion on the Post-office revenue, and the result would be that an immense number of letters would be sent in one large envelope to a person who

would distribute them, and a trade of that kind would soon spring up. The Post-office was established for the purpose of carrying letters; if it did not carry a single newspaper, it would be impossible to deduct materially from the expense of the establishment. When Mr. Rowland Hill was asked what deduction could be made, he said, "Very little, indeed." The truth with regard to the newspapers was this, that the Post-office, existing for carrying letters and having a surplus ability to carry other matter, and the House considering that the conveyance of newspapers was a matter of public utility, they chose to carry newspapers at a rate infinitely cheaper than letters. Mr. Lowe then entered in a variety of details with respect to the *Times* newspaper, and contended that, although he did not desire a copyright, it was only just that that publication should have the power of transmitting its full-sized sheet without the extra halfpenny.—Mr. MILNER GIBSON opposed this view, thinking the profit of the extra advertisements quite sufficient to compensate for the extra tax.—Mr. E. BALL defended the motion.—Mr. DRUMMOND said that, though he objected altogether to the press, he must support the motion; for the limitation of size he looked upon as a dishonest blow aimed at one particular establishment, which was certainly the cleverest of any.—The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER observed that the object of the bill then before the House was simply to remove the compulsory stamp; and he therefore deprecated entering into other and discrepant changes.—Upon a division, the motion was lost by a majority of 174.

THE FLOATING BATTERIES.

On Tuesday, Lord PARNHAM, in reply to Lord TALBOT, stated that, after inquiry, he entertained a hope that the experiment about to be tried with regard to the floating batteries would be found to be successful.—Lord HARDWICK thought the answer very unsatisfactory, and he might add, from personal examination, that the experiment was likely to be anything but successful. He stated that the floating batteries are very ill constructed, and will be found too heavy. He had no doubt that a shell from a mortar would go right through the deck.—After some further discussion, in which Lords GREY and DERBY took part, the subject dropped.

CAVALRY IN THE CRIMEA.

Lord HARDINGE, in reply to Lord VIVIAN, stated that the cavalry force in the Crimea at the last advices amounted to 1300 men. In a very short time this number would be increased to 3000 sabres.

THE SIEGE.

In the House of Commons, in reply to Mr. WARNER, Sir CHARLES WOOD stated that a telegraphic despatch received that day from Lord Raglan mentioned that the Russian force stationed on the Doblo and at Mackenzie's Farm had been reinforced by two divisions.—In reply to Mr. FRENCH, Sir Charles said that the electric telegraph would remain under the control of the Government, but that he would not say it would be entirely confined to the Government service.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE ARMY.

Mr. FREDERICK PERL, in reply to Mr. DUNCOMBE, said the report of the commission of military men who had been sent out to Paris by the late War Secretary, for the purpose of examining the French system of military administration had been received, and he did not think there would be any objection to produce it; but he would answer the question on a future day.

The Loan Bill was read a third time, and passed.

MAYNOOTH.

After a prodigious number of petitions had been presented upon the subject, Mr. SPOONER moved a resolution pledging the House to resolve itself into a committee for the purpose of considering the acts for the endowment of the College of Maynooth, with a view to the withdrawal of any endowment out of the Consolidated Fund, due regard being had to vested rights or interests. In a speech of great length, Mr. Spooner contended that the endowment is a gross national sin, and sanctions a systematic violation of the Protestant constitution of this country. The evidence contained in the recent report from the Maynooth Inquiry Commissioners he denounced as little better than a sham and a deceit; and he strongly commented on the criminal laxity which allowed certain portions of the evidence withheld by the commissioners to be sent to Rome before publication. It was clear, he said, upon the face of the report, that it must have been altered without the consent of the two Protestant commissioners, Lord Harrowby and Dr. Twiss; yet, even under these circumstances, it contained enough to show that the teaching at the college is as objectionable as ever. He then cited portions of the evidence to prove that the doctrines sanctioned at Maynooth are of the most ultra-montane nature, encouraging mental reservation and equivocation, and presenting all the worst features of Popery. He held that it would be no breach of faith to withdraw the endowment, since that had been



free gift conferred upon Maynooth, which Parliament was at liberty to revoke when it pleased. Mr. Spooner concluded by expressing a hope, that leave would be given him to bring a bill to carry out the views he had expressed.—The motion was seconded by Mr. DUNLOP, who desired that equal justice should be done to the Roman Catholics and Protestants of Ireland, and who thought that the teaching at Maynooth is at variance with the independent spirit of liberty.—Mr. HORSFALL, Mr. ABEL SMITH, and Mr. NAPIER, supported the motion, upon the ground that the teaching at Maynooth is of a corrupting character, and that the Roman canon law, in which, under the act of 1845, the priests are educated, is at variance with the constitution of this country. The motion did not propose to touch the act of 1795, under which the colleges originated, or to disturb anything done before the act of Union: it related simply to endowments paid out of the Consolidated Fund. The statistics of crime in Papal and Protestant countries, said Mr. Horsfall, show the superiority of Protestant over Roman Catholic education; and he thought, therefore, that Parliament was not justified in voting money for Maynooth.

Mr. POLLARD URQUHART, who had given notice of an amendment to the motion, "that the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider the existing state of ecclesiastical endowments in Ireland," declined to press this amendment. He contended that the Established Church of that country, where five-sixths of the people are Roman Catholics, is a greater anomaly than the college of Maynooth; and he defended the action of the Roman Catholic clergy, who are not, he remarked, the only class who interfere in politics. Clerical interference is not unknown in Protestant England.—Mr. SCHOLEFIELD moved an amendment to the motion, to the effect that all grants or endowments for ecclesiastical purposes should be withdrawn. He observed that Mr. Spooner had made his extracts from parts of the evidence appended to the report of the commissioners, not from the report itself, which was founded upon the whole evidence. The commissioners bore testimony to the loyalty of the students and to their morality, stating that their general conduct is considered to be irreproachable. He denied that the civil rights of Englishmen are jeopardised by Roman Catholicism. Mr. Spooner, however, was not contending for civil rights,—he was an advocate of religious truth; but by what authority was he appointed to decide this question for other men? If the Maynooth endowment was to be removed (and it was an anomaly, but only a part of a most anomalous system), there was but one fair and honourable mode—that of sweeping away every endowment.—Mr. BLAND accused Mr. Spooner of not having dealt fairly with the report, which, he said, is highly creditable to the professors at Maynooth, and to the mode of education there.—Mr. HORSFALL said the question was not one of religion—it was a political question. The Commission had been appointed at the desire of Mr. Spooner; yet that gentleman now repudiated the report, and aimed at subverting a policy which for the last sixty years had conferred benefit on Ireland and honour on England. The question, he said, affects the civil and political rights of the people of Ireland.—Mr. MURDOCH also opposed the original motion; and the debate was ultimately adjourned.

THE EXPENSES AT VIENNA.

A motion by Colonel SITHORTH, for returns of the expenses of Lord JOHN RUSSELL'S mission to Vienna, was resisted by Lord PALMERSTON as unprecedented, and wearing the appearance of a vote of censure.—The Colonel then said that the Government were afraid to lay the expenses of the mission before the House, and that it was a low, underhanded piece of business, at which there was much laughter.—The motion was withdrawn.

EDUCATION (NO. 2) BILL.

Sir JOHN PAKINGTON, in moving the second reading of this bill, said, in answer to certain misapprehensions which he believed to exist with respect to it, that it rested upon three general principles—viz., that it is a duty to provide additional education for the people; that that education should be religious; and that it should at the same time be conjoined with perfect toleration. The machinery of the bill included two principles—the first, that its object should be mainly effected by means of a public fund, raised by local contributions, with the aid of grants from Parliament; the second, that these grants should be administered by local boards popularly elected, acting upon the principle of self-government, but superintended by a central department, represented in and responsible to that House, analogous to the great measure for the relief of the poor. In reply to anticipated objections, Sir John said that, although his bill was founded upon a large toleration, he intended that all the schools founded under it should be in connexion with some recognised religious denomination; so that it could not fairly be said that the measure endangered the teaching of the Scriptures. He had been asked what would prevent these schools becoming Mormonite. To that he answered, that he did not contemplate any other denominations

of dissenters than those which are recognised by the Committee of Council.

Mr. HENLEY moved that the bill be read a second time that day six months. He observed that it gave him great pain thus to oppose a dear and valued friend, but he was persuaded that the bill would not extend education at all, and most certainly not religious education. The question really was, whether Parliament should extend and foster a voluntary and self-supporting system of education, or run the enormous risk of suspending and arresting the progress which that system was now making, and which had done a vast amount of good within the last few years, setting up, instead, a system supported by a local taxation of 2,000,000*l.*, to be assisted by a State contribution of another 2,000,000*l.*, with a machinery which, without attaining the end expected, would stamp upon the education of the country the brand of pauperism. Education (observed Mr. Henley) is not merely school instruction, but should include a training of the mind and heart, and teach men to know their duty to God and to each other. He then proceeded to show that most important advances towards this result have been made by the voluntary system; that Sir John Pakington had overstated the want of education among our populace; and that crime is less, and morality and education greater, in England than in other countries—the example of America being exceptional. He then drew a contrast between the conduct of the people of this country and the nations of the continent in seasons of suffering and popular excitement; and, passing to the details of the bill, said that, although professing to be permissive, it levied a tax in one sense compulsory. Assuming that a national school system is necessary, he objected to putting a charge on that account upon real property alone. But he objected to a rate of this kind altogether, since it would bring into operation, with aggravation, an evil which Parliament was trying to remedy, namely, the heartburnings attending a church-rate. He believed, moreover, that rate-supported schools, and schools sustained by voluntary contributions, could not co-exist; so that the first effect of this bill would be to knock down all existing schools. The bill was not framed to secure religious teaching; it wholly ignored the existence of a clergy; it did not follow the parochial divisions; and it made no provision for evening schools.—The amendment was seconded by Mr. R. PHILLIMORE; and the bill was supported by Mr. MILES (who held that the voluntary principle has failed) and by Mr. BYNG. Mr. DILWYN opposed the bill; and Mr. ADDERLEY moved the adjournment of the debate. To this, Sir JOHN PAKINGTON assented, observing that he had nothing to complain of in the manner in which Mr. Henley had opposed his measure, and adding that he felt sure he should be able to make a satisfactory answer to the objections which had been advanced.

RECENT MATTERS.

Lord PANMURE, on Thursday, made some statements, in answer to the Earl of ELLENBOROUGH, the Marquis of SALISBURY, and the Earl of HARDWICKE, relative to certain alterations in the Indian army, by which the officers are now entitled by right to assume the same position as corresponding officers in the royal army; relative, also, to the bounty given to recruits, and to the manner in which the Guards on board the Alma had been sent to sea. With respect to the last question, Lord Panmure laid the blame of the overcrowding on the district authorities at Liverpool and Portsmouth.

LOAN BILL.

This bill was read a second time on the motion of Lord STANLEY.—Lord RAVENSWORTH expressed his opinion that, had there been a proper blockade, so as to cripple the commerce of Russia, there would have been no need of a loan; but he offered no opposition to the reading of the bill.

THE NEGOTIATIONS.

Lord CLARENDON explained the position of affairs with respect to the negotiations at Vienna, from which it appeared that Austria still entertains hopes of peace. Under present circumstances, his Lordship deprecated a discussion on the matter.—The Earl of DERBY thought the statement of Lord Clarendon very unsatisfactory. After the forbearance which had been shown towards Austria during the last two years, he wished that something more definite as to her intentions could have been communicated.—The Marquis of LANSDOWNE declared that, during the time these negotiations had been pending, not a moment had been lost in the vigorous prosecution of the war.

THE WAR.

In reply to Mr. COLLIER, Sir CHARLES WOOD repeated what he had previously stated, that, as soon as the White Sea was free for the ingress and egress of vessels, it was intended to establish an efficient blockade of the ports of that sea.—In answer to questions put by Mr. WHITESIDE and Mr. ROEBUCK, Sir Charles premising that with reference to communications from the Admirals and Generals in the Black Sea and the Crimea complete discretion must

be reserved to the Government as to what intelligence they would communicate to the public, stated that the substance and purport of every telegraphic despatch which had been received thence since the telegraphic line had been laid down had been communicated to the public, with the exception of one which merely asked a question concerning the movements of some vessels.

Lord PALMERSTON, in answer to Major REID, said he was sure the House would excuse him if he declined entering into details concerning the ultimate intentions of Austria with respect to the war. This statement was of course accompanied by the usual parliamentary comment of laughter.

SERGEANT BRODIE.

In reply to an inquiry by Mr. STANLEY, Mr. FREDERICK PEEL said it was not the case that Sergeant Brodie, of the Enniskillens, had been placed under arrest for preventing a duel, but for behaving disrespectfully to one of the officers of the regiment. Considering his conduct in the transaction, however, he had been released without any reprimand from the Horse Guards.

POOR LAW (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Mr. E. ELLICE, jun., moved the second reading of this bill. He said it did not in any way interfere with the operation of the existing law, nor did it profess to confer any new rights, or take away any at present existing: its sole object was to enforce the better carrying out of the present law, and secure to the poor of Scotland the benefits which the present law professed to give, but which it failed to produce. Up to about the year 1840, the poor of Scotland had no real power of claiming relief; but at that period it was discovered that the law did in fact give the poor a right of appealing in *forma pauperis*; and the courts of law accordingly intimated to the parishes that if they did not properly support the poor, they would be compelled to do so. In 1845, an act was passed, appointing a central Board of Supervision, and providing that no appeal should be taken unless this Board certified that a good cause existed. The Board has authority to appoint delegates to inquire into and enforce the proper carrying out of the act in the various localities; but those delegates are scarcely ever sent forth, and consequently the poor in districts far from Edinburgh have in fact no power of appeal at all, and are at the mercy of the local authorities. It would be found that in the Highlands there is literally no system of inspection. A return presented to the House showed the number of inquiries made in the three counties of Argyle, Inverness, and Ross, since the passing of the act in 1845. From that return it appeared that from 1847 to 1851 there was no local inquiry whatever into the working of the act made in any parish of these three counties. That was not his act, nor that of the board. Reports of distress in the Highlands reached the Secretary of State; he communicated with the Board, and after a long correspondence issued a positive order for an inquiry. That was merely a general inquiry; and the only other before or since was one held in 1853, for a single day, by Mr. McKenzie, the Sheriff of Ross. The only appeal which the pauper can make against refusal of relief by the local board is to the nearest sheriff, who, in many cases, cannot be reached under a journey of two hundred miles. In the case of inadequate relief, the only appeal is to the Board of Supervision; but the appeal has to go through the hands of the local inspector, who accompanies it with any qualifying statements he pleases, and finally the form is sent back to the parochial board, who decide upon the case. Mr. Ellice then referred to the shocking misery attendant upon evictions, and mentioned more particularly one in the parish of Glenelg, which resulted in the death of one or two persons from exposure.

"For a month or more after meeting with the particulars, he was in correspondence with the Board of Supervision for the purpose of obtaining an inquiry; but the board refused to institute one. The police went to the sheriff, and represented to him that the case was becoming alarming, and that his interference was absolutely necessary. The sheriff at once sent to the Lord Advocate, and upon making inquiries that learned lord thought the matter ought to be looked into, and he directed that the sheriff should proceed to the district, and inquire into the matter. The sheriff accordingly proceeded to the place, taking with him the procurator fiscal and a medical gentleman well qualified to give an opinion upon such a subject. The sheriff made his report, and from this document it appeared that out of thirty-eight paupers, two of whom were receiving 1*s.* 6*d.* per week, two were receiving 1*s.* 3*d.* per week, and the remainder were receiving less than 1*s.* Again, it appeared that the medical officer of the district had only visited three paupers three times, and twelve others once during the whole time in which he had held his situation. He would here observe, in passing, that half of this medical officer's salary was paid by money voted by that House. The report of the sheriff then went on to give an account of the habitations and clothing of the poor people—and a most miserable account it was."

houses had no roofs in many cases; there were pools of water upon the floors; and the people were living upon potatoes and seaweed. One case had actually come under his (Mr. Ellice's) notice. A poor man was in the most destitute condition, and, by his advice, applied to the board for relief. What did the board do? Why, they took away from this poor man's wife one-half of an allowance of 1s. per week, which she had up to that time been receiving, and gave it to the man. The sheriff had taken some pains in this particular case; but the apathy and inert opposition of the board had been too much for him, and he gave it up in despair. In another case, the horrible state of want to which his family were reduced had driven a man mad."

The Board of Supervision did not inquire into this matter until nine months afterwards; and they then sent their own chairman, Sir John McNeil—the man who was in fact the board, and upon whom, if upon any one, the blame of the existing state of things rested. The report which Sir John made out, Mr. Ellice charged with being an evasion of the truth. He concluded by stating that by the present bill he proposed to introduce inspectors having the same powers and the same duties as those officers possess in England; and that these inspectors are to pay periodical visits to the places within their district, giving notice of their intention to do so in order that paupers and others having complaints to make might attend before them for that purpose.

The LORD ADVOCATE thought there was a good deal of exaggeration in the speech of Mr. Ellice, and, although he did not mean to deny that the law might be amended, it was unwise, he said, hastily to disturb the existing settlement. His simple objection to the bill was, that while it would not secure the object in view as regarded the appointment of special inspectors, the provisions of the present act authorise the Secretary of State to appoint such officers. Sir John McNeil and the Board of Supervision had had a very difficult task to perform; and the sweeping charges against them were, in his opinion, not deserved. Without pledging the Government, he recommended Mr. Ellice to leave the matter in their hands.

Mr. CHRISTOPHER joined in this recommendation; and, after a short discussion, in the course of which the conduct of Sir John McNeil was defended by Mr. C. BAILEY, Mr. ELICE withdrew his motion, being satisfied with the assurance which had been given that Government would take the subject into consideration.

SUNDAY TRADING BILL.

LORD ROBERT GROSVEENOR moved the second reading of this bill, which was supported by LORD EBRINGTON, the Marquis of BLANDFORD, SIR GEORGE GREY, MR. JAMES MACGREGOR, SIR J. SHELLEY, MR. CHAMBERS, MR. KIRK, and MR. MASTERMAN; and was opposed or objected to by MR. WILKINSON, MR. DUNCOMBE, MR. J. G. PHILLIMORE, MR. HADFIELD, and MR. W. J. FOX. The arguments for the measure were based on the principle that the amount of Sunday trading which goes forward at present is a desecration of the Sabbath: the chief argument against it was to the effect that the suppression of trading on the Sunday morning would be a great hardship to the working classes, who receive their wages so late on the Saturday night, that they are unable to market until the following day.—The bill was read a second time.—MR. DUNCOMBE then moved that it be referred to a select committee; but this was opposed by Sir GEORGE GREY, and the motion was withdrawn.

LAND AND ASSESSED TAXES DIVISION BILL.

MR. FREWEN, in moving the second reading of this bill, explained that its object is to facilitate the formation of divisions for which meetings of the Commissioners may be held under authority of the Treasury. The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER was not aware that any considerable inconvenience was felt from the arrangement under the present law, and he therefore, and upon other grounds, objected to the further progress of the bill. If it could be shown, he said, that the present law is seriously defective, he would undertake, on the part of the Government, to introduce a measure to remedy the defect.—The bill was supported by MR. SPOONER; but was rejected, upon a division, by 125 to 35.

The Intestacy (Scotland) Bill passed through committee.

COURT OF CHANCERY (IRELAND).

MR. WHITESIDE moved the second reading of a series of bills, the object of which was to adapt to the Irish Court of Chancery the beneficial reforms which had been introduced into the English Court. The first of these bills abolished the Master's-office altogether. The second amended the practice and course of proceeding of the Court upon the model of the English Court. The third bill altered the law relating to the appointment of receivers; it consisted of matter of law, which was assimilated to that of England, and of matter of regulation. The fourth bill provided for the sales of estates, by engraving upon the reformed Court of Chancery all that was good in the Encumbered Estates Court about to

expire, and transferring the business of the latter Court to the former, giving it the power to add to its decree of sale a parliamentary title. As the business of the Court of Chancery would be by these measures much increased, it was necessary to provide a local Court of Appeal; and this was the subject of the fifth bill, which did not create a new Court or a single new judge, but would afford the suitor an opportunity of a re-hearing of his cause before the Lord Chancellor, assisted by retired judges. The last bill modified the stamp duties to meet the altered practice of the Court.—MR. J. D. FITZGERALD opposed the bills, and said that all the abuses described by Mr. Whiteside had been reformed by the Act of 1851.—After a brief discussion, the debate was adjourned for a month.

The Dissenters Marriage Bill was read a second time; and the Income Tax Bill a third time, and passed.

THE SEBASTOPOL COMMITTEE.

MONDAY.

CAPTAIN MILNE, of the transport service, was re-examined, and furnished the committee with several details relative to the Commissariat transports. He stated that the number of large steam-vessels now employed is 113, and the number of sailing vessels 103. The sum of money expended in this service during the past year was 3,000,000l. In answer to Lord Seymour, the witness acknowledged that it would have been more economical to purchase the vessels at once; but then, he said, the Government had not the means of manning them. In consequence of complaints made in the department, returns were ordered to be made by the senior and commanding officers as to the proper performance of the service, the regulations for which were read by Captain Milne and put on the committee records. When the Admiralty chartered vessels for the transport service, the owners undertook to supply the troops with stores. In consequence of complaint about the Trent and Kangaroo, the Admiralty caused inquiries to be made, and had power to inflict a fine on the owner of the ship, if there was any irregularity or insufficiency in the supply of stores. Several other cases had occurred in the course of the last eighteen months, and the Admiralty had refused to pay the money. The master and mate of the Robert Lowe were charged on going out from Portsmouth; but it was not reported to the Admiralty. If the crew did not know of their cargo, it was the fault of the owner. Every vessel was bound by its charter party to have an authority on board to give, on arrival of the ship in harbour, an account of the ship's cargo. The witness admitted that the Admiralty ought to have taken notice of this breach of the charter party, and that it was answerable for not having done so. When the Prince was lost, the Admiralty did not know what the Ordnance had put on board, but they could ascertain through the Ordnance. He could not say whether it was a transaction of the Ordnance, or not, that some portions of iron bedsteads were sent out in one vessel and some in another, and that ultimately they never met. (Laughter.) It was certainly desirable that the legs of bedsteads, to be useful, should meet the bedsteads themselves. In the month of August, Admiral Boxer complained that he had not a sufficient staff to perform the duties. The Admiralty then sent out the Harpy to be attached to him. If, as had been stated in the papers, a vessel was sent to purchase boots and shoes with a cargo of them actually on board, the Admiralty were not aware of it, and, from communications he had received from the authorities, he believed no such transaction had occurred. Supposing the sick and wounded, in being conveyed from Balaklava to Scutari, had suffered dreadful hardships, the fault would be that of the principal agent of transports. He had of course heard of the horrors of the sick transport ships; but he was not aware that any official intimation of them had been received at the Admiralty. He then read a letter from Admiral Boxer to Lord Raglan, written in January last, in which the admiral asserted, that while he was at Constantinople he had used his utmost exertions to render the landing of the sick and wounded as comfortable as possible, but that there was a want of men to carry them to the hospital. The Admiralty never received any requisition to provide hospital ships: ships ought to have been fitted for the purpose.

"Then you are not aware," asked the Chairman, "that Dr. Andrew Smith represented early in the year that such ships ought to be provided?"—I never heard of it till this moment.

"Whose duty was it to tell you?"—It was the duty of the Commander-in-Chief to communicate, through the War-office, with the Naval department. No doubt, the difficulty with regard to bedding was owing to the want of stores of those articles in Balaklava.

Sir J. Pakington.—"The suggestion was made by Dr. Andrew Smith to the War Department; was any sent from the War Department to you?"—I never heard of any. For what was intended there, it was the duty of the Commander-in-Chief.

Lord Seymour.—"If the wharfs at Scutari were insufficient as landing places, whose duty was it to report the fact?" [In explanation, witness read an extract from a

letter from Admiral Boxer to the Secretary of the Admiralty, in January last, referring to those wharfs. He stated that he called the attention of Lord Raglan to the necessity of providing proper wharfs for landing the sick and wounded early in the year. One was partly constructed, but was washed away in November. In a strong south wind boats could not go alongside the principal landing-place; the only landing-place at Scutari sheltered from the south wind was between two and three miles from the hospital, which was a great objection.]

To Mr. Drummond.—If any horses sent out in transports died in consequence of being placed too close to the engine, he had never heard of it. Several of the horses soon went mad on the passage, and were obliged to be shot; but that was not owing to their exposure to the heat of the engines so far as he knew, but to some internal disease of the horses themselves. He believed it was owing to the horses not being able to stale.

A portion of the sitting was then occupied by a discussion between Sir Charles Trevelyan, who was recalled, Mr. Roebuck, and Mr. Layard, as to an alleged mis-statement by the latter of a phrase used by Sir Charles on a former examination. It appeared, however, that Mr. Layard had only put an interpretation upon it which Sir Charles had not intended, and that he had omitted to quote some subsequent phrase of a qualifying nature.

Captain Tallon, commander of the Sea Nymph, was next called, and deposed to having taken out from this country for the Government, a cargo of provisions for the use of the army, and, among other things, twenty-four casks of boots and shoes; that he had made repeated attempts to land the boots and shoes at Varna, Eupatoria, and Balaklava, but to no purpose, the commissariat authorities, and also those of the Quartermaster-General at those places, refusing to receive them, on the ground that they had no authority to do so; and that between the latter end of October and the beginning of November his ship was kept dodging about the Black Sea with those boots and shoes on board. At length, on the 8th November, he succeeded in shoving them ashore at Balaklava—(a laugh)—into one of the Quartermaster-General's stores.

Captain Hilyer, one of the naval brigade in the Crimea, gave evidence as to the superior condition of that brigade during the winter, as compared with the state of the troops generally, which he attributed to the brigade being mostly picked men, to their being well-seasoned, and to their having had their food regularly and well cooked.

TUESDAY.

Sir John Burgoyne, under whose superintendence the engineering works before Sebastopol were carried out, gave evidence on Tuesday chiefly with respect to the want of a proper road from the harbour to the camp. He was of opinion that great evils arose from the absence of such a road, though not so many or so bad as the public supposed; but the army could not spare the men for the work—they were wanted in the trenches, which it was necessary to make at once, or the Allies might have been disastrously attacked by the Russians. If, however, Lord Raglan found the force insufficient for making the road, he could have sent home for men. Navigators would have been useful, and it would have been a better measure if early in November 1500 "navvies" had been sent out to make the road, than the subsequent construction of the railway. He did not attribute the deaths and loss that occurred in the commissariat to the state of the road; but undoubtedly the state of the road increased the amount of work. No doubt the carts and horses often stuck in the deep mud; and soon after he got before Sebastopol, he found the horses of the commissariat overworked and in bad condition. The generals of division complained of the excessive work the men had to perform. All this was the fault of our military institutions, which in the field were notoriously insufficient. The commissariat, he considered, was not equal to the requirements. He heard no complaints about the tools; but there might have been a few accidental exceptions that were bad. The great mass of the tools is provided by the Ordnance, and under a system of contract. That system is to take the lowest tender, provided it is made by a respectable manufacturer. Many of the tools used in the Crimea came from Malta, where they had been stored for many years. The witness concluded his evidence by giving some technical opinions upon military matters.

WEDNESDAY.

Mr. Grant, for thirty years in the service of the Admiralty, and in the Victualling and Transport departments, entered into various details concerning the system of tender-taking by the Admiralty, and the amount of stores sent out to the troops in the Crimea. Referring to the assertion that, after some of the tenders had been accepted, the accompanying samples had been changed, he said that no one could change the samples without breaking the seals. The head messenger had charge of them until the individuals who owned them came for them. He did not recollect of any representations having been made as to change of samples or unfair play with them, or of complaints on the part of the public that this had taken place; and he conscientiously believed that no unfair play had taken or could take

place. It was unknown to him (witness) that persons in the office of the Admiralty had accepted bribes. If the bulk of an article was not equal to the sample, it was rejected; and that frequently happened. It was possible that the bulk might be changed on its transit to the place of shipment, or at the place of shipment. It was possible, too, that the persons employed by witness to carry the samples to Deptford, for comparison with the bulk, might change the samples on the way; but one great check against that was, that the same individuals who received the samples at the Admiralty received the bulk at Deptford. He did not know an instance in which a sample had been changed, and an inferior article substituted in bulk. The witness nevertheless said that the Admiralty had had great experience of the rogues of those who supply stores—particularly with respect to preserved meats and mustard; to such an extent, indeed, that the Admiralty had established a manufactory of mustard for themselves.

Sir Hew Ross, Lieutenant-General of the Ordnance department, and now acting in the room of Lord Raglan, said he did think the service suffered from the absence of the Master-General; and Sir Thomas Hastings, Comptroller of stores at the Ordnance, gave some business details with respect to army clothing.

THURSDAY.

The examination of Sir Thomas Hastings was continued. He said there was a difficulty about enforcing a contract with Kynaston and Co. for warm clothing, and he told the Board of Ordnance that, as it had been entered into by a minute of one board, it ought not to be quashed or rescinded by Mr. Monsell, the clerk of the Ordnance. He did not inquire into the cause of this, as it would create an unpleasant feeling; but the contract must have been stopped by Mr. Monsell or by Sir Hew Ross, or the two might have done it jointly. Some of the requisitions for warm clothing were verbal; but the witness objected to this, and expressed an opinion that the public business could not be safely transacted in that way, and that they should be recorded and authenticated. Since the change in the Board of Ordnance, the business was carried on both verbally and in writing, and a large portion of the business was carried on in this way—things in the routine of the office going on in the usual way, though he thought it was not a proper way of doing business. It was subsequently decided that the contract above mentioned should be continued; but he doubted whether any record was kept of it, the whole proceeding being irregular. When the samples were approved of, they were sent from the Ordnance to the Tower, sealed with the seal of the Board of Ordnance; but the seal lay about at the Ordnance, and anybody could get it. He did not see, however, to whose interest it would be to change any of the samples. Upon the Chairman asking him how he accounted for the fact of socks the size for children being sent out for the soldiers, he said there was a great deal of hurry and pressure. He did not think the story probable; but it was possible. It was "possible" also that the shoes sent out were too small. Referring to the tents, he discredited the assertion that some of them were old; but, if such was the case, the responsibility rested with the storekeeper. The colonels of regiments supplied a certain proportion of the boots and shoes for the army, and the Ordnance the rest to a certain extent; and he believed the complaints that had been made of the boots and shoes in the Crimea referred to those supplied by the colonels, and not to those furnished by the Ordnance, which underwent a rigid examination before they were sent out. The Ordnance, under the great pressure upon them at the time, procured the assistance of the firm of Messrs. Howell and Hayter in packing the stores, and those gentlemen, on undertaking that duty, did so on the understanding that they should not be able to institute that rigid inspection into the articles they packed which was customary with the Ordnance; but they made a general inspection, which was satisfactory on the whole. With respect to the supply of tools by the Ordnance, the witness said that the story told to the committee by Sergeant Dawson that the heads of the pickaxes in the Crimea came off at every blow struck with them, was impossible, because the helve of every pickaxe supplied by the Ordnance was so constructed that every blow only the more firmly fixed it into the head of the axe. He could not believe that the mass of the tools supplied was so bad as had been described.

Mr. Grant was then recalled, and said that the seal with which the samples were stamped was kept locked up, and did not lie about loose in the office; and he believed it to be utterly impossible that the samples could have been tampered with. In answer to a question put by Sir John Pakington, he stated that he had not received a letter from any official person in the Crimea in which it was suggested that the roasting and grinding the unroasted coffee would be capital amusement to the soldiers; but he thought Commissary-General Filder once made a remark of that kind to him in the course of a conversation he had had with that gentleman.

FRIDAY.

Sir Thomas Hastings was again examined, and gave

testimony with respect to several matters of Ordnance detail. One of the chief points in his evidence had reference to the misconduct of two officers at Woolwich; but he declined to give their names. The Master-General of the Ordnance, he said, has full power to dismiss officers who misconduct themselves; but in this case the matter was taken in hand by the War Minister, though that was a very unusual thing. Sir Thomas, alluding to his disapproval of ordering rifles at Liege, said that it would cripple the Birmingham trade, and added that, in case of an invasion taking place, without a supply from Birmingham they could not arm the population. If there should ever be an invasion, as Birmingham was located in the centre of the kingdom, it would furnish arms in any quantity. The Duke of Newcastle listened most attentively to all he said on this subject. He should regret exceedingly that it should appear that he had opposed the obtaining of that number of muskets, but he wished to explain that it was his impression that such a step would quite destroy the gun trade of Birmingham. They had not received a single musket from Belgium. By teaching the manufacturers there how to make a new species of arms they could be sold to other countries, and might be turned against ourselves at any time. 152,000 muskets were ordered at Birmingham, of which 88,991 had been delivered. He had not heard of any complaints made by the contractors as to delay occasioned in obtaining patterns for the arms required.

THE WAR.

THE BOMBARDMENT HAS BEEN SUSPENDED. That is, emphatically, the war news of this week.

After all our enormous expenditure of shot and shell—after the incessant "pounding" of a fortnight in duration—this marvellous fortress seems to be as impregnable as ever; the different batteries rise again every morning, Antæus-like, with fresh strength from their temporary abasement; and the Allies stand breathless, and wondering what they shall do next.

The suspension (which took place on the 28th of April) is said to be merely temporary, and owing to a desire not to exhaust our ammunition before the arrival of reinforcements which are expected shortly. A despatch from Vienna, dated May 2nd, says, that authentic information has reached that city that the bombardment was to be resumed in a few days; but of course this is merely in the clouds. In the meanwhile, we know too well that our pains have been thrown away; that the town is not reduced; and that, as Sir Charles Wood told us in the House, on Tuesday, on the authority of a telegraphic despatch from Balaklava, the Russian force stationed between the Belbec and Mackenzie's Farm has been strengthened by two divisions. Thus, our telegraph has as yet brought us nothing but cold comfort.

The engagement between the French and Russians on the night of the 13th ult., of which we gave an account last week, was the result of a sortie of the latter upon the former, or rather of two successive sorties, one immediately following the repulse of the other. The second also was driven back by our gallant allies with great slaughter. These attacks were made from the Flagstaff Battery; and, as if to revenge themselves, the French, a few days later, took up a position in front of that battery, from which, however, they have since been driven. The English are engaged in pushing forward another advanced parallel; in doing which, they were so greatly pestered by the Russian rifle-pits that the work was for a time stopped. Two of these pits were therefore attacked and carried on the night of the 19th, though not without considerable loss of life to us as well as to the enemy. These ambuscades were under the Mamelon, in front of the Malakoff Tower. The Russians have abandoned the batteries of Caeneering Bay.

Our men complain greatly of the slowness of their earthworks, through which the Russian shot and shell burst, and scatter death broadcast. They are also again sadly overworked; but they are in good spirits after all their disappointments, and their health on the whole is improving. Captain Christie, late of the transport service, has arrived at Kamiesch, where he was to be tried by court-martial, chiefly for the loss of the Prince.

The Russians are straining every nerve to defend the town to the left; and our only hope seems to be in a complete investment, and a struggle with the army in the field. On this subject, the *Herald* correspondent says: "Up to two months past, to invest the north of Sebastopol would have been easy.

Now, such a step will involve battles to which Alma and Inkerman were skirmishes, as we know that beyond the Tchernaya every height is fortified, and that the wild mountain road which leads from Tnoungoum to Mackenzie's Farm, bristles with redoubts at every ravine." Yet, if we do not invest, it seems we have nothing else for it than to depart. The Flagstaff Battery, the Redan, the Malakoff, and other works, were thrown up by the Russians since last summer—some, even, since the battle of Alma; yet, though these batteries have been half ruined by our fire, and temporarily silenced, they seem still as impregnable as ever.

RUSSIAN MOVEMENTS.

The Russian army in the field seems to be dwindling away, or to be doomed to inactivity. We hear of men marching away to our right flank and rear, and of others descending from Mackenzie's Farm towards Balak and Tchorgoum; but they are swallowed up, as it were, when they enter the ravines behind us. The army of the Tchernaya is visibly decreased. The men are probably draughted off to the north side of the town; for the encampment of the enemy at Hollandia has been sensibly augmented, and the force at the rear of the Round Tower has also been strengthened. The lines of the Russian huts on the heights over Inkerman along the Tchernaya remain unchanged; but I do not see so many men in them. They have a respectable force of cavalry picketed outside Inkerman, and numerous batteries of artillery; and their men are employed incessantly in throwing up great earthworks to the east and north-east of the place. These works are all beyond the range of the batteries on our right, and can only be intended to resist any attempt on our part to march round to the north side, or to turn the left flank of the enemy.—*Times Correspondent.*

SHARP PRACTICE.

Some time ago I was watching three French Chasseurs "potting away" at a Russian who was sitting with his legs dangling over the sides of a precipice, and now and then returning their fire. The French knew the man quite well, and admitted that he was so good a shot they did not care to expose themselves too freely. All their balls fell short of the man; and, after he had received three or four rounds from each, he raised his rifle, down went the Chasseurs and somebody else, "ping" flew the ball through the air, and "plop" it came against the rock behind which the foremost Chasseur was crouching. The Frenchman picked up the piece of lead quite flattened out and broken, and showed it to his comrades; and then they resumed their practice, the result of which I did not wait further to ascertain. Many of the Russian riflemen are excellent shots; but the majority of them are not equal to our own or to the French Chasseurs. An amateur in one of the batteries, anxious to see what kind of shooting the enemy would make, held his "wideawake" just above the parapet; in a moment, two bullets went through it, and one of them took a fancy to the gentleman's forefinger and to a bit of another finger, and carried them away with it, so that the unfortunate experimentalist will be able to speak with authority on the question of Russian sharpshooting.—*Idem.*

EXPLODING THE MINES.—STATE OF SEBASTOPOL.

It was stated that the French would explode their mines (*fougades*, I believe) this evening (Sunday, April 15th) at four o'clock; then the time was deferred till six o'clock, and finally to an indefinite period of the evening, and the groups of spectators, tired of waiting on the hills, retired to their tents. The Field-Marshal and his staff were among the number. At half-past eight o'clock, however, three pillars of red flame hurtled through the air with an appalling crash from under the batteries of the Flagstaff Bastion, blowing up the parapets and platforms of the outer work and laying it in ruins. The fourth and principal mine was not exploded, as it was found to be close to the gallery of a Russian mine, and so far the explosion failed, and the French were unable to make such a lodgment as was anticipated; but they rushed in and established themselves in the course of the night in a portion of the outer work. The Russians, believing the explosion was a signal for a general assault, ran to their guns, and for an hour their batteries vomited forth prodigious volumes of fire and smoke against our lines from one extremity to the other. The force and fury of their cannonade was astounding; but, notwithstanding the length and strength of the fire, it caused but little damage to the works or to their defenders.

A Polish deserter has come in, who reports that we missed a golden opportunity last Monday. It appears that the Russians were apprised of the landing and march of the Turks, and received information which led them to believe we were about to attack Liprandi's army. Every available man was sent out of Sebastopol on Sunday last, and when we opened fire on Monday morning they had only 8000 men in the place. This accounts for their silence and for their surprise. For two days they were working might and main to get their men back from Liprandi's army to the town again, and they have now 28,000 men inside. The deserter says "the place is a perfect hell." There are 300 French sick and wounded in the hospital; no English. The hospital is

exposed to fire. All the Poles who have deserted are sent to Varna to join Zamolski's Polish Legion. About 500 Russian cavalry, escorting a large staff, are now making a reconnaissance of our position in the Valley of Balaklava.—*Idem*

EXPENDITURE OF SHOT, SHELL, AND POWDER.

Up to this evening (April 15th) the English trenches alone have fired away between 16,000 and 17,000 32 and 68-pounder shot and shell, 7800 13-inch shell, and 4500 10-inch shell, making in all about 2200 tons of shot and 500 tons of powder already expended. The English trenches mount 151 guns and mortars, the French 238 ditto ditto; so that between English and French there has been used during this week's bombardment about 6000 tons of shot and shell, and some 1500 or 1600 tons of powder.—*Morning Herald Correspondent.*

THE FRENCH AT THE FLAGSTAFF BATTERY.

Last night (April 17th) our allies made another attempt to establish themselves at the Flagstaff Battery, and this time with complete success. Owing to the very heavy fire which was kept up yesterday upon the battery, the Russians were unable to effect anything towards the destruction of the breastwork which the French had partially made. About eight o'clock, a small picked party of French sappers crept cautiously into the breastwork, and, under cover of a skirmishing fire from behind, succeeded in repairing the little damage which the enemy had inflicted upon the gabions. The covering party and the fire of mortars completely protected their movements until near ten o'clock, when a sudden rush was made by 250 men, carrying gabions, partly filled. These were immediately placed and filled with loose earth, and, thus sheltered, a fire was opened on the Russian soldiers in the Redan, who, after some resistance, retired to another part of the battery, and left the French in complete possession of their lodgment. Of course, during the rest of the night, the French mortars directed their fire so as to protect this party, who occupied the interval in strengthening their position in such a manner as to shelter them during the daylight. This morning, accordingly, they are able to hold their post. It is on the left side of the Flagstaff, and distant only about 12 feet from where, before the bombardment, the Russian cannon and embrasures stood. It is facing the part which was so much injured by the great mine; and here the enemy are unable to bring any cannon against them. The French have made some fifty or sixty loopholes in the breastwork, and through them they keep up an incessant fire on all who show in the battery. Its peculiar angular position protects them much from the effects of this fire; but still sufficient annoyance and injury is inflicted to gall the Russians to the utmost. If the French extend this breastwork, as it is said they intend doing, the Flagstaff will either become untenable, or so perfectly commanded as to be stormed without loss; but, before such an extension can be made, the Russians are certain to make desperate attempts to oust our allies. If their attempts are successful, the French lose little, and merely begin *de novo*; if they are unsuccessful, and we retain the position, the strongest of the enemy's advanced batteries fall into our hands.—*Idem.*

A RECONNOISSANCE.

On April 19th, Lord Raglan, General Canrobert, and Omar Pacha, accompanied by their respective staffs, made a strong reconnaissance of the position of the enemy before Balaklava. The whole force proceeded at about ten in the morning from the right of our position in the direction of Kamara. Here were stationed a few Cossack pickets, who beat a precipitate retreat as the Allies advanced. Nothing was found in the village beyond the ruins of some huts and three or four small stables, which the Cossacks had converted into picket houses for themselves. These were pulled down and their materials scattered about. The church, the only edifice left untouched, in the centre of the village, was not interfered with.

After passing Kamara, the troops, preceded by the cavalry and artillery, advanced in the direction of the hills on the Woronzow road overlooking the Tchernaya, in the direction of Tchourgoum. On these hills between 150 or 200 Cossacks were collected. They fell back as we advanced, carefully keeping out of range, and retiring on the road to Tchourgoum. On the hills from which they had started a number of mud huts had been erected, capable of accommodating nearly a thousand men. These, with some enclosures containing forage, were set fire to. Half the infantry, with two French field batteries, remained on these hills, while the cavalry, horse artillery, and the remainder of the infantry, with the rocket battery, moved down the road towards Tchourgoum. On the hills over Tchourgoum, the pickets, which had increased to some 300 or 400 infantry and cavalry, made a stand, and watched our movements. Our cavalry advanced to the village, which seemed deserted and almost in ruins. There appeared no traces of inhabitants, or indeed, of its having been recently occupied at all, except by soldiers. A number of dogs were about it, which bayed and snarled as our men drew near; but these were the only tokens of life or animation. Beyond the hill and on all the available

coverings on the other side of the Tchernaya, appeared earthworks and heavy batteries. In a kind of basin, formed behind the hills, a Russian camp was no doubt assembled, as Cossacks came and went in that direction repeatedly. There was, however, no means of ascertaining either the number or strength of the enemy without bringing on an engagement, and perhaps a severe one. Behind the works of the heights, which were fortified, were Russian troops; and in the wood leading towards Mackenzie's Farm, commanding redoubts seemed to have been thrown up in different places.

In this manner the Allies quietly retired towards Balaklava, having ascertained, beyond all doubt, that no force about which we need be at all apprehensive, remained in the vicinity.

On the Turkish redoubts which we passed, still lay the body of a Turkish soldier, as he fell on the memorable 25th of October. On other parts of the battle-field, which the Allies have not entered since, except on occasions of reconnaissances of this nature, lay many artillery and cavalry horses, just as they fell, and with all their equipments still attached to their decaying carcasses, which the vultures, dogs, and foxes have almost entirely stripped to the bone. Pieces of uniform, broken swords, bayonets, lance staves, and quantities of shot and shell lay all over the plain, which was green and radiant with wild flowers of every hue, and fragrant with the perfumes of violets and thyme. As the troops returned across the plains a hare was started, and the chase of that timid animal formed an appropriate conclusion to the day's reconnaissance.—*Idem.*

LIFE AND DEATH IN THE TRENCHES.

The following interesting passages are contained in a letter from a captain in the Royal Engineers, dated the 9th of April. The officer in question is one of the three superior engineer officers upon whom it will devolve to take a leading part in the assault upon Sebastopol. He says:—

"My principal duty here is to be in the trenches. There are four captains to take command of the works, each of whom remains twenty-four hours down there, so that my turn comes one day in four. We have a subaltern under us, who only stays twelve hours, so that I remain through two reliefs of subalterns. The working parties are relieved every eight hours. Now, as our advanced works are within seven hundred yards of the main batteries of the place, and they keep up a constant fire on our working parties, you can imagine how harassing this work sometimes is. No man, be he ever so brave, can stand under fire for so long a time, inactive so far as fighting is concerned, without finding it a great wear and tear to his nerves. The first hour is the worst, as after that one gets more used to it. The Russians treat us to a pleasing variety in the way of projectiles. First come the round shot of all sizes, which rush past you with a shriek something like a railway whistle badly blown. Next come the grape, which fly slower and round, like a covey of strong birds, flying very swiftly. Then comes a gunshell, which approaches like a round shot, but has the pleasing trick of bursting when it reaches you; so that you have to run a double risk—first of the shot itself, and then of the pieces. Next comes the mortar-shell, which, though really the worst of the large projectiles, I somehow dread the least; it remains in the air for nearly half a minute, and in the night you can see it quite plainly, owing to its bearing the fuse. It glances along very gracefully, rising to a great height, and making a gentle whistle every now and then like a peewit or plover, which becomes louder and louder till it drops. Although you can see it all the way, it is a most difficult thing to tell where it will fall; and none but the oldest hands (men of whom it is said that they have got so injured to fire that a cannon ball would hop off the pit of their stomachs) can really make a good guess as to where they will drop. What makes it worse than a gun shell is that the former flying so low retains its impetus, so that if it is once past you before it bursts all the pieces will continue to fly forward, and you are safe; whereas, as the mortar shell is pitched as high as it will go into the air, and then drops, the pieces have no other impetus than that what the bursting charge gives them to fly in every direction for a radius of upwards of 200 yards, and sometimes considerably more. But my greatest horror of all, and the deadliest foe we have, is the Russian rifle bullet. It is not so perfect as ours, but, as Mercutio says, 'It will do well enough.' I give you a sketch of it, the size of life. (Here is given an admirable pen-and-ink sketch of the bullet, which is, like the English, conical.) This little gentleman gives you no warning, but flies about all day long, and ranges twelve hundred yards. At a quarter of that distance, it will go through two men."

THE NAVAL DIVISION AT SEBASTOPOL.

A letter from Kamiesch, of the 14th, in the *Moniteur de la Flotte*, gives the following account of the flying attack made by an English and French frigate on the fortifications of Sebastopol, nearest to the harbour:—"At about nine o'clock last night, the Valorous, English steam-frigate, boldly steered in towards the Russian forts, and every eye was directed towards her movements. On arriving within proper range, she suddenly opened her fire, and we could clearly distinguish a complete volley of shells fall in the town. The Russians did

not at all expect this attack; and it was, therefore, several minutes before Fort Constantine returned a shot. As to Fort Alexander and the Quarantine batteries, they did not fire until a second broadside had been delivered by the frigate, which, after following it up by two others, returned to her anchorage outside without having sustained any damage. At about one o'clock in the morning, the French steam-frigate *Caffarelli* got under weigh, and performed the same manoeuvre as the Valorous. The Russians were, however, on this second occasion more on the alert, as the gunners were all at their posts, and the two rows of casemates of Fort Constantine were lighted up, which produced a very singular effect. The *Caffarelli* fired four broadsides in rapid succession, and then steamed back to her anchorage. The Russians returned the fire pretty actively; but the vessel was only struck by one shell, and suffered no material injury. The diversion caused by this last attack was very opportune, as at the very moment when it took place a very sharp fire of musketry was going on between a battalion of 28th Light Infantry and the Russians, who were obstinately defending some rifle-pits which the French soldiers had received orders to take."

CAMP ANECDOTES AND SCRAP.

In the French camp, the most fabulous reports about General Canrobert are in circulation. It is affirmed that before leaving Paris he consulted a pupil of the celebrated soothsayer, Mdle. Lenormand, who set his horoscope, and prophesied that he would attain the supreme command of the army, but that—like Nelson—he would fall in the moment of victory. The nocturnal combats that now take place almost every night have not yet lost any of their murderous characteristics. Whichever party commences these bloody feuds, whether French or Russians, they always end in a hand-to-hand combat of life and death. Prisoners are never made, nor do they ask for or give any quarter. The "Greek banditti," as the French term the Albanians, who are formed into a corps of irregulars, under the command of some Greek nobles settled in the Crimea, have adopted the Albanian costume, and the corps is further reinforced by the Greeks of the former Crimean militia, and are used by the Russians for the same duty as that of the Zouaves and the bashi-bazouks, namely, to be in the most advanced and dangerous positions, without obtaining much glory. The Russians have learned the necessity of economising the lives of their regular troops, and these irregulars are therefore placed in the van of the infantry about the Malakhoff position, performing the duty of tirailleurs. They evince a supreme disregard of life, and generally throw away their muskets after the first discharge or two, and then, drawing their yataghans, rush in and close with their antagonists. It is generally asserted that before these combats they are regularly primed with opium, which would account for their frantic yells and maniac deportment. It is further stated that they are instigated to seek certain death by their priests, who assure them that the souls of all those who volunteer immediately assume a fresh human appearance, and that they are born again as counts and princes.—*Daily News.*

DISPATCH FROM LORD RAGLAN.

Before Sebastopol, April 17.
My Lord,—The fire of both the French and English armies has been continued upon Sebastopol since I addressed your Lordship on the 14th inst., and, though superior to that of the enemy, it has not produced that permanent effect which might have been anticipated from its constancy, power, and accuracy.

The guns of the Russians have been turned upon some of our advanced works in vast numbers, and in one particular instance the injury sustained by a battery was so great, that the unremitting exertions of Captains Henry and Walcott, and the gallantry and determination of the artillerymen under their orders, alone enabled them to keep up the fire, and to maintain themselves in it.

In another battery yesterday, a shell burst close to the magazine, which in consequence exploded, killing, I am much concerned to say, one man, wounding two most severely, and seven in a less degree.

Both the batteries I have mentioned have been repaired and restored to their original condition.

I enclose the list of casualties that have arisen between the 13th and 15th inst. I have to lament the loss of two young and promising officers, who had only lately joined the army—Lieutenant Preston, of the 88th Regiment, and Lieutenant Mitchell, of the Artillery; and I regret to add that two others have been severely wounded—Captain Green, of the East India Company's Service, who has been employed throughout the siege as an assistant-engineer, with great credit to himself and every advantage to the service, and Captain Donovan, of the 33rd, who has most zealously served from the commencement of the campaign.

The French blew up several small mines in front of the Bastion du Mat after sunset on Sunday evening, with a view to establish a parallel on the spot. This operation greatly alarmed the enemy, who at once commenced a heavy fire of cannon and musketry in every direction from that part of the town, which they kept up for a considerable time. It occasioned no harm on our left attack, upon which a part of it was directed, and I hope did little injury to our allies.

Several hundreds of the Russian cavalry and a small body of Cossacks appeared on the low range of heights in front of Balaklava this morning, and remained about an hour when they retired, the greater portion by the bridge of Tractea. The object of this movement was probably a reconnaissance.

I have, &c.,

RAGLAN.

The Lord Panmure, &c.
ENCLOSURE.—Killed: 2 officers, 3 sergeants, 13 rank and file. Wounded: 4 officers, 3 sergeants, 76 rank and file. Naval Brigade: Killed, 6; wounded, 16; contused, 7.

BLOCKADE OF RUSSIAN PORTS IN THE NORTH. (From the London Gazette.)

Foreign Office, April 27, 1855.

"It is hereby notified that her Majesty's government has received information from Captain Watson, R.N., commanding a squadron of her Majesty's ships in the Baltic, dated, 'Her Majesty's ship Imperieuse, off Libau, April 19, 1855,' to the effect that on and from the 17th day of April, 1855, and in the name of her Majesty and of her ally, his Majesty Napoleon III., Emperor of the French, the Russian port of Libau, on the coast of Courland, was placed in a strict state of blockade by a competent force of her Majesty's ships and vessels, and that on and from the 19th of April, 1855, all Russian ports, roads, havens, and creeks, from latitude 55 54 N., longitude 21 5 E., to the Filsand Lighthouse, in latitude 58 25 N., longitude 21 50 E. (including especially the ports of Sackenbaun, Windau, and the entrance to the Gulf of Riga), were also placed in a state of strict blockade by a competent force; and it is hereby notified that all the measures authorised by the laws of nations, and the respective treaties between her Majesty and her allies with the different neutral powers, will be adopted and executed with respect to all vessels which may attempt to violate the said blockade."

WAR MISCELLANEA.

THE BALAKLAVA TELEGRAPH.—A letter from Varna, of the 18th, in the *Moniteur*, says:—"The telegraphic wire will not start precisely from Varna, as was at first intended. Experience has shown that vessels anchoring in the roadstead might get foul of it and damage the line; and a decision has in consequence been come to, that it shall be carried to Cape Kalagria, about thirty-five miles to the northward of Varna. From that place a submarine wire will run along the coast to a place called the Monastery, close to this town, and be united by a line on shore to the wire from Varna to Bucharest."

RUSSIAN MILITARY MOVEMENTS IN THE NORTH.—A letter from St. Petersburg, in the *Pays*, says:—"The inhabitants of the majority of the islands of the Baltic, particularly those of Oesel and Dago, the trade of which is very considerable, have come to the resolution to abandon their homes in about three weeks, and take refuge with their wives and children on the *terra firma* of Esthonia. Nargen is already abandoned, the forests which furnished the inhabitants with fuel having been destroyed last year by fire during the sojourn there of the English. The fortifications of Riga continue to be extended, and a number of men are employed in strengthening the defensive works of Dunamonde. The concentration of the troops destined to defend the country will be completed by the 15th of May. They will be about 115,000 strong, and their head-quarters will be near Duna. General Sievers, who commands them, resides at present in a fortified camp in the interior of Courland. He has not, up to the present time, at his disposal more than two divisions of infantry, three batteries of field artillery, and three regiments of heavy cavalry. The plan of campaign for the Baltic was drawn up by the Emperor Nicholas before his death, in concert with Prince Paskiewitch."

FRENCH REINFORCEMENTS FROM ROME.—Letters from Rome of the 20th mention the departure of the 21st French Regiment of Light Infantry from that city, and its embarkation from Civita Vecchia two days before, to join the army of the East. A company of the wagon train and a battery of artillery had also left for the same destination. It was expected that another of the regiments which now constitute the garrison of Rome would follow in a short time, when the total French force remaining in the papal capital would be only two regiments and two or three batteries of artillery, forming an effective strength of about 3500 men.

RUSSIAN OBSTRUCTION OF THE LOWER DANUBE.—A letter in the *Moniteur*, dated April 10, from Bucharest, says:—"Some forty merchant vessels, under various flags, have arrived at Ibrailla. All of them are in ballast, except one, which has a cargo of colonial provisions. At Ismail, the Russian authorities detained them for several days, and it was not without difficulty that they obtained leave to ascend the river as far as Ibrailla. Fearful of being seized on their return to Ismail, they abstain from taking in cargo. There are also at Galatz more than a hundred merchantmen in the same predicament."

BRITISH RECRUITING IN THE UNITED STATES.—Of the six individuals arrested in Philadelphia charged with recruiting men for the British service, two have been discharged, two more held to bail, and two remained to be disposed of by the United States Commission. The

Halifax Journal of the 9th inst. reported the arrival of sixty men from Boston for the Foreign Legion, who had been induced to go there under the supposition that they were wanted to work on the railroads. Finding out the mistake, all the men refused to enlist; and finally, arrangements were made to give them work.

OSTEN-SACKEN, who from his eccentric habits is considered by the soldiers as a sorcerer, has transferred the command of the fortress of Sebastopol to Admiral Nachimoff.

THE SICK AND WOUNDED IN SEBASTOPOL.—The Councillor Mansaroff, who had been despatched to the Crimea to inspect the treatment of the wounded, has published his report, dated March 25. At the end of February there were 1720 sick, of whom 247 were wounded, in the barracks on the north side of Sebastopol; they are accommodated in eight houses of one story high, divided into 38 wards, so that infectious diseases, such as typhus and gangrene, could be kept separate. The rooms are described as amply capacious and well ventilated, although frequently three men had to sleep on the inclined boards (used also in Prussia, and called *pritsche*), that were meant only for two; only a portion of the sick had bedsteads. This comparatively satisfactory state of things had been produced by draughting off invalids in great numbers to Nicolaieff, and would be liable to be altered on occasion of any engagement taking place. In addition to the above, there were a great many sick in the forts and houses of Sebastopol, whose numbers could not be given. The medical men were so exhausted by their labours, that every case of their falling ill assumed at once a malignant form. In Fort St. Michael, the ophthalmic patients were accommodated, and a medical man of eminence from the surgery at Kiev had been procured to attend on them.—*Times*.

MISS ELIZABETH ANNE SMYTHE, who went out with Miss Nightingale, has died at Kulule of an attack of fever which lasted eight days. Honour to her memory! She sacrificed herself for the good of others.

THE FLOATING BATTERIES.—A writer in the *United Service Gazette* says that these batteries, though the five already built will cost the nation half a million, are worthless. He describes them as enormous washing-tubs, and says they will be nearly swamped by their weight.

MORTIFYING, IF TRUE.—In a pamphlet published at Berlin, and pretending to semi-official origin, it is said that after the battle of the Alma and the march of Prince Menschikoff to Baktschi Serai, the whole garrison of Sebastopol consisted of only four battalions and the body of seamen. At that time, also, none of the present outworks existed, with the exception of the wall of the town.

A QUERY.—What has become of the submarine explosive concern which was to clear away the sunk ships in the mouth of Sebastopol roads, and thus give admittance to our fleets? It is some months since the vessel containing the apparatus was reported to have left our shores, and we still hear nothing of its arrival.—*Sheffield Examiner*.

THE ARMY OF HESSE DARMSTADT.—In the Second Chamber of Hesse Darmstadt, on the 25th, a credit of 400,000 florins was voted to the Government for placing the troops on a war footing; a further sum of 240,000 florins for maintaining an extra body of troops during six months if necessary, and another of 1,000,000 florins for the expense of a mobilisation, in the event of that being resolved on.

SANITARY CONDITION OF THE ARMY.—The Report of Dr. Hall, Inspector-General of Hospitals at the camp, inclosed in Lord Raglan's last despatch, says that the health of the army "continues gradually to improve, and the mortality from disease to diminish. Fevers and bowel complaints continue to be the prevailing diseases;" but, of these, speaking generally, there appears to be a decrease. In the 79th Regiment, however, there was an excess of nineteen fever cases over the preceding week, with an increase, in the deaths, of two. "There has been a decrease," adds Dr. Hall, "in all the ordinary forms of bowel complaints; but I regret to have to notice two fatal cases of cholera, one in the Artillery, and the other in the 7th Fusiliers. These were both brought up from the trenches, and both died after a few hours' illness. No other cases have occurred, and, from the general diminution of bowel affections, I trust they will prove accidental."

THE BARRACK HOSPITAL AT SCUTARI.—On Easter Monday, M. Soyer opened his large kitchen in this establishment.

RUSSIAN DEFENCES IN THE NORTH SEAS.—The *Moniteur* of Tuesday says:—"The French Consul at Stettin announces that a decree of the Russian Government, dated the 3rd of April, orders the service of the light-houses, which had been re-established in the Gulfs of Finland, Bothnia, and Riga, after the departure of the allied fleets and the raising of the blockade, to be again suspended. The booms and buoys in the Wiborg Straits will also be removed."

THE RUSSIAN ACCOUNT OF THE RUSSIAN LOSSES.—A despatch from General Gortschakoff says that "the loss suffered by the garrison from March the 30th to April the 3rd (11th to 15th April) consists of 7 subalterns and 436 men killed; 6 superior officers, 34 subaltern officers, and 1899 men wounded."

ARMY REFORM MEETINGS.

SHEFFIELD.

THE country appears to be rousing itself to the crying necessity for military reform. A meeting with this object was held on Monday at Sheffield (Alderman Carr in the chair), at which the following resolutions were unanimously and enthusiastically carried:—

"That the fearful disclosures which have been made before Mr. Roebuck's Committee as to the cause of the awful destruction of British soldiers before Sebastopol have proved the imperative necessity of a thorough reform being made in the constitution and discipline of the army."

"That our recent terrible battles strikingly exhibit the military advantage of intelligence and personal energy in the soldier, and testify that our soldiers are largely capable of self-direction, and that many of them must be amply competent to lead others into action; that the experience of the French proves the advantage to the army itself of permitting men to rise from the ranks."

"That, from several causes, the bodily wants of the soldiers are insufficiently cared for; that the Home Government sends out supplies, but they do not duly reach the soldiers, or not till too late; that discipline forbids the soldiers to complain; that the army surgeons have no independent authority, and cannot take proper measures for the cleanliness, warmth, and general health of the soldiers, or for the necessary tending of the sick or wounded."

"That as the constitutional armed force of England has ever been a militia, composed of the free men of every county, and as a militia was the only, but most effective, defence of England for more than twelve centuries, it is desirable that the militia should be reconstituted in its original integrity, in order that the country may be in a better state of defence."

"That it is indispensably necessary for the Training Prevention Act to be forthwith repealed, in order that Englishmen may no longer be prevented from acquiring a knowledge of the mode by which their country may be defended, so as to be ready for actual service when occasion requires."

"That officers of the Indian army may be allowed to be promoted into the British army; that the militia may be reconstituted on the principles of its original integrity; that the Drilling Act may be forthwith repealed."

"That this meeting rejoices to learn that a movement is making in London to establish an association to promote administrative reform in all departments of the State; and that it is indispensable that a similar association be at once formed in Sheffield."

"That this association be called 'The Sheffield Administrative Reform Association.'"

It was also agreed that these resolutions should be embodied in a petition, and presented to both Houses of Parliament.

DERBY.

A meeting, with a similar design to the foregoing, was convened at Derby for Thursday. We have not yet received any report of the transactions; but the requisition calling for the meeting thus sets forth its objects:—

"To protest against the scandalous waste of public money which has taken place, and is still continuing, in connexion with the transport service of our army in the Crimea; to protest against the continued employment of Admiral Boxer, who, as has been proved, has been directly guilty of the most heinous mismanagement, to protest against the simple dismissal of Captain Christie, to whose obstinacy the awful loss of human life and destruction of public property in the great storm off Balaklava were mainly due; to protest against the rejection, without any inquiry, of Lord Dundonald's plans for the destruction of the Russian strongholds; to protest against the appointment of untried men to the command of the proposed Turkish contingent, and the rejection of men whose military skill has been shown to be of the highest order; and generally to take such measures as to the meeting shall seem good to avert the further disasters which the continued perverse disregard on the part of our rulers of the dictates of common sense and the instincts of the people cannot fail to inflict."

THE LATE MILITARY FRACAS AT CANTERBURY.

DEPUTY-ADJUTANT-GENERAL FOSTER arrived at Canterbury last Saturday, for the purpose of opening an inquiry into the recent affair with two officers of the Inniskilling Dragoons. An application by the resident reporter of the press to be allowed to be present was refused; the adjutant not even deigning to send a direct answer. As far as can be ascertained, these are the particulars of the proceedings:—The officers having been examined, Sergeant Brodie was brought in custody from his room. His evidence was the same as that previously given; and at the conclusion he inquired if he was to consider himself still a prisoner. Adjutant-General Foster—who, like one of Shakespeare's characters, seems to "profess not answering"—did not reply to this; and the sergeant was removed to his room. Shortly

afterwards he was again brought out; and the acting colonel (in the place of the Adjutant-General, who had left) said he released him on his own responsibility, but at the same time intimated that he did not think the sergeant could hold his office of saddler to the regiment much longer. The colonel also remarked that there was not another non-commissioned officer in the service that would have acted as Brodie had done, and made other disparaging observations on the conduct of the sergeant. Brodie was then discharged from arrest. It is currently reported that every possible means were resorted to by the guilty parties (though without avail) to induce the corporal who arrested Brodie to say that he was intoxicated at the time; and it is also affirmed that Adjutant Webster has declared "that he would not stop in the regiment unless Brodie was smashed."

ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE THE FRENCH EMPEROR.

An attempt of a very deliberate and predetermined character, has been made upon the life of the present ruler of France. The Emperor was on horseback in the Champs Elysées about ten minutes past five on Saturday evening, when he was fired upon twice within a few seconds by a foreigner who is now in custody. The *Constitutionnel* publishes the annexed account of the affair:—

"On the right side of the avenue near the Beaujon grounds, almost at the corner of the Rue Balzac, a man was seen to advance from the side alley towards the Emperor; he had his hand in the breast-pocket of his paletot, as if he were about to take out a petition to present to his Majesty. This man was decently dressed; and appeared about thirty-five years of age. He was armed with a double-barrelled pistol of the length of a cavalry pistol, and he fired twice, at a short interval between the two shots. The Emperor cast a look of profound disdain upon the assassin, and, with his hand waving off the persons who hastened up to see that he was not wounded, and saluting them, he continued his ride to rejoin the Empress, whose carriage was a little in advance.

"Meantime an agent attached to the person of the Emperor, on hearing the first report, rushed to the spot whence it proceeded, and, armed with a dagger which he had with him, fell upon the assassin just as he fired his second shot. It appears that when he caught hold of him he wounded him with his dagger, which led to a report that the assassin had attempted suicide. The assassin had no dagger; but a revolver was found upon him, which he had no time to use.

"Surrounded by Sergens de Ville, who kept the curious at a distance, the man was taken to the guard-house at the Barrière de l'Etoile, occupied by a detachment of the 90th of the Line. Here he was searched, and by his papers it was proved that he was an Italian. He is a Roman of the name of Liverani, who embraced Protestantism at London, where he had emigrated after the taking of Rome by the French.

"He was dressed in an undersuit quiet different from the first in form and colour, so that if he had not been at once arrested he might easily have escaped. He was immediately handcuffed and taken to the Prefecture of Police. On arriving at the guardhouse at the Palais de Justice, occupied by the Garde de Paris, it was found necessary to take bandages and lint to bind up his wound. He had 100*fr.* in gold in his pockets, and the large double-barrelled pistol which he had fired, and which is a weapon of some value; it is, perhaps, its length which made him so fortunately twice miss his aim. While the assassin was being secured, the Emperor, followed by a crowd of pedestrians and equestrians, who loudly cheered him, rejoined the Empress, and returned to the Tuilleries, in the midst of a sort of triumphal escort. The ladies in the carriages joined in the acclamations, waving their handkerchiefs. The Emperor and Empress had previously announced their intention of visiting the Opéra-Comique. Their Majesties went there. On their way, in the Rue de Rivoli, in the Rue de la Paix, along the Boulevards, the crowd thronged the pathways, and saluted their Majesties with loud cheers. Many of the houses were illuminated; three rounds of applause welcomed the Emperor and Empress as they entered their box. The Emperor took the seat in the box usually occupied by the Empress. When they left, the crowd had not diminished, and shouts of 'Vive l'Empereur' were heard on all sides. On Sunday morning there was a continual roll of carriages to the Tuilleries. The colonels of the different regiments of the garrison of Paris, and even those of the regiments stationed at Versailles, came to congratulate the Emperor."

The would-be assassin has said that his design was to avenge the Roman Republic. It is asserted that he refuses to speak.

The Paris correspondent of the *Morning Post* says that, after the first shot was fired, "Count Ney struck spurs into his horse and dashed at the villain, who had such presence of mind as to step aside suddenly, and as the impetus given to the horse carried Colonel Ney past him, and therefore exposed the Emperor, he stepped forward to about four paces from his mark and fired again." The *Daily News* correspondent says the Emperor avoided the first shot by slightly

ducking his head, and that the second shot is reported to have passed through his hat. The same writer adds:—

"Immediately after the second shot was fired, the regicide was seized by two men in blouses, who looked like operatives, but were, in fact, agents employed by M. Balestrino, the director of the secret police. Almost at the same moment a gendarme, a native of Corsica, named Alessandrini, who, in the capacity of what is commonly termed a 'bull-dog,' was following the Emperor in a brougham, accompanied by M. Hirevoy, a commissary of police, rushed out of the carriage with a drawn poniard, and flew at the murderer, who, it appears, resisted violently. He was taken to the Prefecture of Police, where he expressed his regret for his crime. He denied that he had any accomplices, but said that numbers had sworn an oath to do what he only had had the courage to attempt. He declared that he had nourished the project ever since the siege of Rome.

"It is rumoured that many arrests were made on Saturday night, but I have only heard specifically of one. A M. Danesi, an Italian refugee, who was an acquaintance of Liverani, and in the habit of meeting him at the Café de France, near the Palais Royal, is in custody. Danesi protests his innocence, and entire ignorance of Liverani's projects. The police was *en permanence* in the Rue de Jérusalem on the night of the attack. At one in the morning, one hundred Sergens de Ville took refreshments at Madams Moreau's preserved-fruit-shop. The Archbishop of Paris ordered a Te Deum in all the churches on Sunday evening."

The culprit's hat, and the revolver which he fired, were of English manufacture. It is also said that he had some English money about him. A probability exists that he belongs to some secret society, for which he has acted. The correspondent of the *Times* says, that when the Emperor returned with the Empress, "the sight was touching in the extreme. Her Majesty was deeply affected, and sobbed convulsively amidst her efforts to smile." We gather from the same source that "when the Emperor saw the assassin in the hands of the people, and his clothes torn, he called out to spare him; and I am assured his words were, '*Epargnez-le—ne le tuez pas, le misérable!*' He did not lose his presence of mind for an instant."

To a congratulatory address from the Senate, presented on Monday, the Emperor returned the following very characteristic reply:—

"I thank the Senate for the sentiments which it has just expressed to me. I have no dread of the attempts of assassins. There are existences which are the instruments of the decrees of Providence. As long as I shall not have accomplished my mission, I incur no danger."

The Emperor (says *Galignani*) afterwards received the papal nuncio, and the ambassadors and ministers of Great Britain, Austria, Prussia, Wurtemberg, and Saxony, who went in the name of their sovereigns to express to his Majesty the indignation which they felt at the attempt on his life, and to offer their congratulations on his escape. Their Majesties afterwards proceeded to the chapel, where they heard mass.

The English residents in Paris were making preparations for a public meeting when a notice appeared in the *Moniteur* to the effect that the Emperor, being well assured of the affection of all classes, did not desire that any addresses should be presented to him. The English, however, are determined upon holding a meeting.

The Court of Aldermen of London have passed a resolution congratulating the Emperor upon his escape; and this will be presented to the French ambassador. A similar address has been adopted by the Town Council of Birmingham.

Since the arrest of the would-be assassin, it has been elicited that his real name is Pianori. He was formerly a volunteer in the army of Garibaldi, and it is said that, having renounced Catholicism, he has spoken at Protestant meetings at Exeter-hall. "He is now," says the Paris correspondent of the *Daily News*, "at the Prefecture of Police. He wears a strait jacket. A gaoler sleeps at the foot of his bed to watch him. A hole has been made in the wall through which he may be seen as he lies, and several persons of note have been to look at him. He lived in two well-furnished rooms in the Faubourg St. Honoré, the rent of which he had paid for a month beforehand. He will be tried in the ordinary Assize Court, and not by the High Court of Justice." The trial will commence on Monday.

A CHESHIRE TRAGEDY.

MR. JAMES SPROSTON, joiner and builder, residing near Sandbach, in Cheshire, has murdered his wife in a very horrible manner, and afterwards committed suicide. The cause of the act was jealousy, which appears to have been unfounded. Sproston and his wife were people in comfortable circumstances, and had been married about seventeen years, during the greater part of which time they had lived in apparent happiness. The woman, who is said to have been handsome, was forty years of age; the man was forty-six. Both were strict Methodists, and used to act as teachers in the Sunday school of that sect.

They kept no female servant at the house; but an apprentice youth in the timber-yard was employed occasionally to assist in some of the heavier household duties. A widowed sister of Sproston had been induced by her brother to reside with him and his wife; and on Friday week, the morning of the murder, she went to Sandbach on a matter of business, the apprentice being told by his master to accompany her. Sproston and his wife were thus left alone. Mrs. Gill, the sister, returned about nine a.m.; and we may here quote her own account of what she saw, as stated at the inquest:—

"I found the back-yard door fastened inside; but, as it was a drop-latch, and might have slipped, this excited no surprise. I went round to the further side of the house, and got over the fence into the garden. The kitchen door was closed, but not fastened, and I let myself in. On entering the kitchen, I saw my sister on the floor, on her knees, with her face thrown forward upon her hands, which were resting on the floor. She was praying, and calling upon the Lord to take her. She said, 'Oh, James, don't,' as I approached her, and afterwards, when I had raised her head and arms, she said in a low voice, 'Where is he?' She was in a great pool of blood, and was still bleeding. A sword was on the table by her side. I went to search for my brother, and found him in my parlour. He was quite dead, with a pistol lying between his feet, which I picked up and laid on the table. The sword and pistol belonged to my brother, and he has had them a long time. The only cause I can assign for the murder is, that my brother had for some weeks been jealous of his wife; jealousy which had amounted to monomania, and which I had told him was quite unfounded."

From the evidence of the surgeon who was called in, the attack must have been of a very fearful description. Both arms, which the poor creature seems to have held up either in supplication or to protect her head, were cut through the muscles and bone; the skull was gashed open, leaving the brain exposed; and the spinal marrow at the back of the neck was completely severed. Sproston and his wife were both tall; and the ceiling of the room, which was low, had apparently been struck by the sword, and presented a patch of blood. The appearance of the kitchen, according to a constable who was examined, "was worse than that of a slaughter-house." The skull of the man was found completely shattered. He had apparently discharged the pistol into his mouth.

The apprentice mentioned at the inquest that on the morning of the murder his master gave him several directions about ordinary matters of business. A short time ago, he had said, pointing to some boards in the shop, "Those boards must be used to make my coffin with." He had also mentioned to the youth those of his nephews whom he wished to be the bearers of his body to the grave, as if he had entertained some idea of his death.

Sproston, in his will, made last February, alienated all his property from his wife, leaving her, however, that which she brought him as a marriage dowry. Though madly jealous, he had never indicated any individual as the specific cause of his jealousy; and Mrs. Sproston was always highly respected by the neighbours.

The inquest terminated, with respect to the man, in a verdict of "Temporary Insanity."

EXECUTION OF BURANELLI.

LUIGI BURANELLI was executed on Monday morning in front of Newgate. Notwithstanding the efforts that have been made to save his life on the plea of insanity, it is said that he never expected any commutation of his sentence. Being a Papist, he was at first attended by Dr. Farr, a Roman Catholic priest; but that gentleman shortly discontinued his visits, on account of Buranelli refusing to allow his daughter Rosa to be brought up as a Roman Catholic. Her mother having been a Protestant, Buranelli had promised to bring the child up in that faith; and, as he refused to break this promise, Dr. Farr told him his soul was lost, and left him. He then obtained the spiritual services of Father Gavazzi, who attended him to the last. The following letter was addressed by Buranelli on Sunday to the lady under whose charge his daughter has been placed:—

"Newgate Prison, April 29.

"My dear Madam,—Before dying, let me renew my thanks for what you have already done for my daughter, and for the care your Christian charity has promised to bestow on her. May Heaven bless you, and impart to my little darling a truly Christian heart, so that we may meet again in a better world, where I hope I shall be tomorrow through the mercy of Jesus Christ my Lord and Mediator. With a kiss to my daughter,

"I am yours eternally obliged,

"LUIGI BURANELLI."

We abridge from the daily papers the particulars of the final scene.

The sheriffs arrived at the gaol soon after seven o'clock, and, upon proceeding to the cell occupied by the culprit, they found him engaged in devotional exercises with Father Gavazzi, who had been with him since half-past five o'clock. The first observation made by the prisoner was

an expression of earnest and deep sorrow for the crime he had committed, and a hope that he would be pardoned by God. He then expressed his satisfaction that Father Gavazzi had been permitted to be with him, and said that he felt much obliged to the sheriffs for the interest they had taken in this matter, and that he was deeply grateful to Father Gavazzi for the religious consolation he had afforded him. He then pointed to the Bible which was lying upon the table, and said, "How I wish that you would get that book circulated in my Italy!" An intimation having been given to him that he must prepare for the fatal moment, he at once, and with great calmness, resigned himself to be pinioned by Calcraft, the executioner, at the same time observing, "I hope I may be the last man who will ever sleep in this cell." Mr. Sheriff Muggeridge asked the prisoner whether he had any other request to make; and he said he desired that the letter he had written to his mother should be forwarded to her, and also that a Daguerrotype portrait of himself and a ring, which were taken from him when he was apprehended, should be sent to his daughter; and Mr. Sheriff Muggeridge assured him that his requests should be complied with. The prisoner still appeared to suffer a good deal from the injury he inflicted upon himself at the time of the murder, when, it will be remembered, he discharged a pistol, the ball of which passed through his neck and into his face, where it still remained imbedded behind his nose. While he was in Newgate an attempt was made to extract it; but, as the prisoner complained of the pain, the attempt was abandoned. Before he was pinioned, he continually applied his handkerchief to his face; and upon Mr. Sheriff Croagly asking him if the ball gave him pain, he said that it did, and that it frequently produced tears. During the whole of these proceedings, the culprit exhibited considerable confidence; but it was evident that this was the result of a great effort.

Upon arriving on the scaffold, in mounting which he was assisted by Father Gavazzi, he appeared to falter and tremble for a few seconds. The rope was then adjusted, and the drop fell. The sufferings of the culprit seemed fearful; and certainly such a painful picture of death by hanging has never been witnessed. After the drop fell, he became dreadfully convulsed, and, from the incessant and almost audible breathing and heaving of the chest for several minutes, the impression became general that Calcraft had failed to adjust the noose properly, and the indignation of the mob became furious. Cries of "Shame! it is murder!" mingled with groans and hisses, were heard; and still the wretched man struggled on, his chest rising and falling the whole time. In this horrible state he hung suspended for five minutes before death put an end to his sufferings. The indignation of the mob continued for some time; and, upon Calcraft coming forward to cut the body down, he was greeted by a horrible yell, to which he responded by making a bow. Upon examination, the face presented the appearance of a man in a calm sleep. It has been supposed that the deceased's struggles were owing to his being a man of very light weight; for the rope seemed to be properly tied. A dissection of the head has disclosed the interesting, and in one respect satisfactory, circumstance, that the brain was in a perfectly healthy state.

INDIA AND CHINA.

By the last advices from the East, we have dates from Bombay to April 2nd; Calcutta, March 24th; Madras, March 28th; and Hong-Kong, March 15th. From the Summary in the *Bombay Times* we gather that the north-western frontier still continues in an unsatisfactory state. Some successful operations have been made against the Busees Khail men; but the Hazara country is represented as being very disturbed. Mr. John Lawrence and Hyder Khan are now engaged in negotiations. In Pegu, a son of Moung Goung Ghee, the rebel chieftain, has been taken with arms in his hands, and hung. The Bedurs of Deodroog and the adjacent districts recently assigned by the Nizam to the British Government have been creating a great disturbance, in consequence of some fancied injury. Twelve hundred of them took possession of and plundered the town of Deodroog, wounded several of the Government servants, made prisoner the Naib or Governor, and threatened to put him to death. Lieut. Frankland, commanding the Lingsagoor field force, received early intimation of these proceedings, and surprised the insurgents by a well-managed forced march with a strong detachment of cavalry, artillery, and infantry. The Naib was given up, the rebels dispersed, and the chiefs of the Bedurs made prisoners. The opening of the Five per Cent. Loan continues to be the absorbing subject of discussion in India, and it seems quite clear that the public accounts have got into such a state as to exhibit much that demands explanation.

In Cashmir, the disagreements between Gholab Singh and his nephew, Juvahir Singh, are reported to have led to several passages of arms between the parties. Juvahir Singh is at Lahore, for the purpose, it is supposed, of consulting the British authorities.

Reports, which however require confirmation, had arrived at Bombay, respecting several severe shocks of earthquake in Upper Schode, at Muttra, Allygurh, Meerut, and Delhi. The account, which will be found below, of a very serious earthquake at Japan, seems to

render these reports probable. Trade in Bombay was extremely dull.

The revenue of India is said to have suffered during the last twelve months to the amount of one million sterling, in consequence of the depreciation of the opium market. This result is partly attributed to the fact of the Chinese beginning to cultivate opium for themselves.

Lord Dalhousie had arrived on the hills of Ootacamund; but was still reported to be very unwell. The produce-markets of Calcutta were extremely depressed; but the business in imports maintained a healthy tone.

From Canton we hear that the blockade instituted by the rebels has been put a stop to by a combined movement of the Imperial soldiers and the people. The rebels, being taken by surprise, fled precipitately, leaving the Imperialists in possession of the forts and other strongholds. The Imperialists are said to have triumphed by means of buying up the ringleaders of the rebels. They have behaved with savage cruelty to the vanquished, hundreds of whom have been put to death. But a still greater success has been achieved at Shanghai, which has been recaptured by the Imperialists, under circumstances of great atrocity. The slaughter has been very great; nearly five hundred prisoners have been murdered in cold blood; and the mandarins, in the first madness of their revenge, have inflicted frightful tortures upon their victims before despatching them. Such, at least, is one account; but a contrary statement has been made. Some of the rebel chiefs—but only a small minority—have succeeded in escaping.

The subscriptions to the Patriotic Fund amount at Hong-Kong to 1,800*l.*; at Shanghai and Woo-Sung to 2,500*l.*; at Amoy to 200*l.*; and at Swatow to 75*l.* Rumour speaks of the recel of Sir John Bowring, who is very unpopular among the mercantile community.

The Japanese and United States treaty was ratified on the 21st of February. On the 23rd of December, Japan was visited by a most severe earthquake, which appears to have vented itself chiefly on the island of Nippon, and on the cities of Simoda and Ohosaca in that island. The following account of the calamity is from the letter of an officer of the United States steamer Powhattan, published in the *North China Herald* of March 8th:—

"The city of Ohosaca, one of the largest in the empire, was completely laid waste. Jeddo itself suffered considerably, but has since suffered more seriously from the effects of an extensive conflagration. The town of Simoda, on our arrival, presented a complete scene of desolation and ruin. After the shock of the earthquake the sea commenced bubbling up along the shore, and then receded with great rapidity, and as soon returned with such increased volume as to flood the whole town to the depth of six or seven feet, sweeping away houses, bridges, and temples, and piling them up in a mass of ruin. Five times during the day did the sea advance and recede in this manner, spreading desolation far and wide. The largest junks in the harbour were driven from one to two miles above high-water mark, where we saw them lying high and dry. About two hundred of the poor inhabitants lost their lives by the overflow, the remainder saving themselves by fleeing to the mountains with which the town is surrounded. The Russian frigate, *Diana*, having Vice-Admiral Pontiatine on board, was lying in the harbour at the time, engaged in finishing the treaty they had made with the Japanese. Immediately after the shock was felt, the water in the harbour became convulsed to such a degree in eddies and whirlpools, that in the space of thirty minutes she swung entirely round forty-three times, twisting her chains up into knots; and so rapid was the motion, that the people on board could not keep their feet, and all were made giddy. When the sea receded, it left the frigate in eight feet of water on her side, when her usual draft was over twenty-one feet. On its return, it is stated, the water rose five fathoms above its ordinary level. On its again receding, four feet only of water remained, so that they saw the stocks of their anchor above the water. The heaving of the bottom of the bay was then so violent that the frigate—although, as I said, in only four feet of water—was moved bodily past her anchor. The officers momentarily expected that the bay would become the outlet of the subterranean fire, and that they should be engulfed in it. When the frigate again floated, they saw her keel and rudder, which had been wrenched off, floating alongside, and the ship filling with water. By getting sails under her, they managed to keep her afloat; and the next day, things having got quiet once more, they hauled her off into deeper water. Occasional shocks of earthquake still continued to be felt; but none were attended with serious consequences. After repairing damages as well as they could, and having rigged a temporary rudder, and the weather becoming fine, they attempted to take the ship round to another bay, where she would be less exposed, and they could complete repairs (Simoda being badly adapted for such a purpose); but, when within seven miles of their harbour, a gale sprung up, the hundred Japanese boats that were towing them abandoned them (not, however, till they had got out all the officers and crew), and shortly after the gallant ship sunk in deep water, the officers and men saving only the clothes they stood in. Notwithstanding all their misfortunes and the dangers through which they had passed, they only lost one man, and he was accidentally

killed by being jammed by one of the guns which had gone adrift."

A rupture between England and Persia is said to be imminent. The Shah openly avows his preference for Russia. Mr. Murray left Bagdad for Teheran on the 12th of March.

AMERICA.

No intelligence of primary importance is to be found in the last advices from America, but several miscellaneous details of secondary interest may be gleaned. The *New York Shipping List* says:—"Within the last few days we have had a variety of rumours from Washington, leading to the conviction that a serious complication of our relations with Spain in reference to Cuba exists; and the despatch of the home squadron to the Gulf of Mexico to check the boarding of American vessels by Spanish cruisers there would seem to furnish a practical confirmation of those rumours. This circumstance has not been without its effect in financial and business circles; but we are not prepared to anticipate that anything will be done, either in the capital or in the Gulf, justly provocative of hostilities with Spain."

Central America remains in a very distracted and miserable condition. Munoz, the leader of a former revolution, has taken the command of the democratic army in Leon, which consists of 2000 men. He is awaiting an attack by the legitimists under Corral, who, it seems, is capable of mustering 3000 soldiers. It was expected that Munoz would be reinforced by 150 of Colonel Walker's emigrants from San Francisco, who are thought to have left there on the 14th of March. Monetary matters in California were getting rather firmer. Page and Bacon had advertised that they would resume payment on the 29th of March. The Kern diggings are now thought to be very inferior to the first conception of them; but new mines have been discovered, and the auriferous product of California seems as yet to be exhausted.

Advices from Mexico report that the successes of the Government troops over General Moreno were mere inventions, and that the Revolutionists were daily gaining ground in the south. At Cajeres, an entire regiment of Government troops, under Colonel Bires, had been dispersed, and a force under General Orten, while marching from Itchnean to Tehuantepec, was nearly annihilated by the insurgents. Santa Anna's flight from the country was daily looked for.

The trial of the Rev. Theodore Parker, for inciting a fugitive slave riot in Boston, has come to nothing; the judge of the circuit court of Massachusetts deciding to quash the indictment.

A resolution emendatory of the constitution, allowing negroes the right to vote, had been adopted by the Legislature at Albany by a majority of nearly two to one in the State Senate; this resolution had been laid on the table. The arrangements of the Kane expedition were nearly completed, and it was confidently expected that the vessels would be ready to receive their officers and stores by the 15th of May, and start on the 1st of June.

Business at New York was still very much depressed. The ship *William Larpin*, from New York to Antwerp, had been totally lost in a hurricane which lasted several days; and the captain and crew had passed six days and nights on the wreck, with nothing to eat but the leather of their boots, and a rat which was found swimming about the wreck. The potash which was in the ship, dissolving, made a lye which eat into their flesh; and when they were relieved, the toes of one of the men dropped from him.

HEALTH OF LONDON DURING THE WEEK. (From the Registrar-General's Report.)

In the week that ended on Saturday, the number of deaths registered in London was 1132. This is rather more than the number of the previous week; but the last two returns together afford sufficient proof that the public health is advancing to a more satisfactory state. In the 10 corresponding weeks of the years 1845-54 the average number of deaths was 1006. That the actual number may be compared with the average, 100 should be added to the latter, to allow for increased population; and the comparison will then show that the mortality of last week did not much exceed the ordinary mortality at the end of April.

Diseases of the respiratory organs grow less prevalent and fatal, and to this circumstance chiefly the decrease of the total mortality is owing. Excluding phthisis and hooping-cough, that class of diseases which, when the weather was cold, caused 433 deaths in a week, produced in the last three weeks 282, 222, and 190, showing a steady decrease. Phthisis was fatal in 176 cases last week, a number as great as that which usually occurred in the depth of winter. Hooping-cough, which carried off 50 children in each of the last two weeks, prevailed less than it did. The mortality from zymotic diseases in the aggregate is near the usual amount; 30 deaths are referred to smallpox, 15 to measles, 45 to scarlatina. Five from the last-mentioned disease occurred in Woolwich, 3 in Peckham, and 3 in Kensington.

Last week, the births of 892 boys and 864 girls, in all 1756 children, were registered in London. In the 10 corresponding weeks of the years 1845-54, the average number was 1495.

LETTERS FROM PARIS.

(Extracts from Private Correspondence.)

"TAKE note of what the *Leader* is saying now. You will have to remind your readers of your words in a few years, perhaps even in a few months. You cannot conceive the state of restlessness and discontent of the adherents of the present régime—I mean senators, aides-de-camp, officers of the household, deputies, and other lacqueys. This recent pistol-shot has betrayed to them the frail tenure of their existence. They interrogate one another's countenance, and not one can promise his fellow a quarter of an hour's political life when the master has disappeared. The same feeling was evidenced by the step taken by the collective deputation of the Ministers and other dignitaries of the State to their master before the 'attempt.' I was told yesterday by a senator, that they had been in a body to declare to the Emperor, that if he started for the army in the Crimea, none could guarantee the public tranquillity at home, and that they preferred to resign *en masse*. This declaration was coldly and silently received, but the visit to the Crimea is postponed *sine die*. . . . There is a dawn of opposition on all sides. The confessed failure of the siege of Sebastopol may have something to do with this movement of opinion. I am assured that the latest news from the Crimea is deplorable. Fever and cholera are setting in. Sixty thousand rounds have been fired, with no other result than 600 Russians killed, and 2500 wounded. The batteries and the ramparts of the besieged are still standing. Every one now cries, *We must get out of it. But can we, if the Russians will not consent to the dénoûment?*"

"All the world agrees, of course, that it was a foolish and wicked act; and even people not accustomed to mention Providence, appeal to its intervention to explain the escape of his Majesty. It appears that Providence had inspired him with the idea of wearing a cuirass; for it is confidently affirmed that the second ball struck him *en pleine poitrine* and threw him back on his horse. The only disastrous result of this affair is, that the Republicans are again persecuted with suspicion; letters are opened in order to discover traces of a conspiracy. It is said that the man has accused above 100 accomplices, and that arrests innumerable are taking place. Some pretend that it is all a police-stroke to avert the journey to the Crimea, but this is not to be believed. What we know for certain is that the *population émissée*, said by the Government journals to surround the Emperor's steps is chiefly composed of disguised police-agents armed with poniards. It will be dangerous to raise one's hat to blow one's nose. The English should keep out of the way, as there is danger at every turn. See how that *agent* stabbed Pianori at once! They say it was frightful to see the Emperor with his face distorted by emotion, rush wildly through the barriers surrounded by the few horsemen who are accustomed to appear there at that hour. A good many English left their cards next day at the Tuileries, but I don't think the courtiers behaved well. They at first thought that something serious had happened, and scampered off to their houses, so that Prince Napoleon Jérôme, when he came—with an alacrity which must have been gratifying to the Emperor—to the Tuileries, before the return of the Imperial couple, found himself almost alone. Afterwards a great crowd came; but I am afraid the people (with ordinary beef at twenty-six sous a pound, the *stict* at forty-eight—such is the measure of national progress and contentment) are too much occupied with their miseries to think of showing their 'loyalty.' The population remained unaccountably indifferent; and I heard one fellow say, almost as a joke, 'They have tried to demolish the Emperor.' . . . There is much disaffection indeed; many are even delighted at the report that the allied armies will soon be reduced to capitulation. Patriotism seems quite dead. . . . The opening of the Exhibition even cannot be predicted with certainty. The victims of the *Moniteur* fill the streets, displaying much red whisker, cut in the traditional 'mutton-cutlet' fashion; and some presume to say, in loud English, that they have been *done*, in order that shopkeepers and hotels may profit. Discontent on this point is general. Perhaps, however, the real reason of the delay—which may be prolonged—is, that the French don't understand business."

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

THE *Débat* has an article in which it takes great pains to point out that the Conferences are not in point of fact closed or dissolved, but merely "suspended," and that the expression "adjourned *sine die*" has more meaning in this particular case than is generally attached to it. It affirms that Lord John Russell proposed to declare the Congress terminated; but that Count Buol objected to this as renouncing all chances for the future. The *Assemblée* reasserts the rumours of serious disagreements having taken place at the Conferences between Austria and the Allies. These, it is said, arose out of the desire of the latter that all ships of war should be excluded from the Black Sea, which should thus be made neutral;

to which Austria strongly objected, and proposed, on her part, that Russia should undertake to limit her ships to the number now remaining at Sebastopol and at her other ports in the Euxine. The writer adds—"The attitude taken by Austria in the last Conference appears of a nature to lead to the belief that she is decided, as was said some days since in the *Moniteur*, to make, in war as in peace, common cause with the Western Powers. At Vienna, however, some doubts are still entertained on this head."

M. Drouyn de Lhuys left Vienna on Friday week.

The "Address to the People," written by Charlotte Corday, and found upon her person when she was arrested, was sold in Paris the other day for 770 fr.

A private meeting of members of the French Institute has been held to consider the expediency of protesting against the recent imperial decree, altering the constitution of that body. The proceedings were opened by Count Molé, who spoke with much warmth, and declared that he felt personally insulted by the attack upon the privileges of the Academies. M. Guizot followed, and expressed his concurrence in the views of Count Molé. Several bitter speeches were made, and it was ultimately resolved, almost unanimously by the members present at the meeting, that a respectful protest should be presented to Government. M. de Germiny was the only member of the meeting who voted against the resolution. M. Prosper Mérimée withdrew before the discussion was over. M. Sainte Beuve observed that there was much to be said on both sides of the question, and expressed a determination not to vote. It is confidently asserted by friends of the protesting academicians, that they will resign *en masse* if the decree be not withdrawn or materially modified. As there is not the least probability that any attention will be paid to the protest, we may expect to hear of their resignations, unless they should think better of it. The pension of 2000fr. a year attached to the dignity of an academician, although not a large sum, will doubtless be a subject of consideration with many before coming to a final decision.—*Daily News Paris Correspondent*.

The *Minerve*, of Athens, of the 11th, publishes an article pointing out the benefits which have resulted from the residence of the French troops in that capital, and expressing the warmest gratitude of the inhabitants of the Piræus for the improvements effected there by the French. Streets formerly almost impassable have, it says, been thoroughly cleared; squares planted with trees; and pieces of waste ground converted into highly cultivated gardens. In short, the town of the Piræus, by the exertions of the French Admiral, has not only been cleared and rendered healthy, but the aspect of it has been completely changed. "If the army remain here some time longer," says the *Minerve*, "the town will be entirely embellished in the European style, and the Piræus will resume its ancient splendour."

The committee of the Spanish Cortes on the Budget has been occupied in endeavouring to ascertain the precise amount of the deficit; and, although it has not yet completed its task, it has ascertained that the deficit will not be less than 200,000,000 reals (the real is five sous).

It is now positively affirmed that the long-talked-of journey of the Emperor to Constantinople and the Crimea is suspended, if not definitively abandoned. A telegraphic message was sent off to Marseilles to prevent the embarkation of the articles prepared for the voyage, and, further, desiring that a message be despatched to Constantinople, ordering the preparations for the Emperor's reception in that city to be suspended. It appears that one of the immediate—at all events, ostensible—causes of this change of resolve, is the report of a committee of physicians held yesterday, who are said to have decided, after due deliberation and a minute inquiry into the circumstances, that the sanitary condition of the encampments is not so good that the Emperor could safely visit the spot. It is very probable, too, that the strong discontent manifested by many persons of rank and position, in and out of the Government, which has considerably augmented as the day of the intended departure approached, has had a good deal to do with that decision. Be this as it may, the journey is positively said to be suspended.—*Times Paris Correspondent*.

The Imperial Court was on Wednesday week again occupied the whole day in hearing pleadings in the case of Mademoiselle Doudet. The Court, at the opening of its sitting to-day, delivered its judgment. The appeal *à minima* of the public prosecutor, founded on the plea that the former judges had neglected to attribute to the facts imputed to the prisoner the character of premeditation, was admitted. As this circumstance allowed of the sentence being raised from two to five years' imprisonment, the latter term was pronounced by the Court. Mademoiselle Doudet immediately appealed to the Court of Cassation.—*Idem*.

By an Imperial decree, Count Colonna Walewski, French Ambassador in England, has been raised to the dignity of Senator.

"According to advices from Fern," says the *Courrier du Harre*, "the French and English fleets were uniting at Calloa to enter into combinations for a fresh attack on Petropaulovski."

M. Thouvenel, long Director of the political department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Minister *ad interim* during the absence of M. Drouyn de Lhuys, has

tendered his resignation, which, it is added, has been accepted.

The *News of Hamburg* says, on authority of a letter from Breslau:—"It seems that the inhabitants of Poland are endeavouring to escape from the obligation of military service in the Russian army. From an order published on the 18th April by the Prince Charles de Hohenlohe, it appears that he has received from the chief of the district of Olshanz a report which states that in that district alone no fewer than 102 Polish recruits had taken to flight in the month of March. It is supposed that the fugitives are secreted in the circles of Lublinetz and Bentzen of Upper Silesia; and the Prussian authorities have accordingly taken measures to have them arrested and given up to Russia. The fugitives belong to twenty-two different villages, and are aged from twenty-two to twenty-five years."

The attitude of Austria has lately become more warlike. Vast military preparations are being made; but whether they will come to anything remains to be seen.

The accounts recently received of the state of the manufacturing districts of France are very satisfactory. Lille, Lyons, Nîmes, &c., seem doing a capital business, stimulated by the prospect of the approaching Exposition.

The Government of Saxe-Coburg Gotha has just promulgated the law of succession for the Duchy. It is to the effect that, in case the reigning duke should die without leaving direct heirs, the succession shall pass to Prince Albert and his descendants, but that the reigning King of England and the heir presumptive to the throne of England shall be excluded. It is further enacted, that if, when the succession shall become vacant, there shall be no descendant qualified to succeed, other than the king and heir presumptive of England, the king and heir shall be bound to cause the duchies to be administered by a governor, until a descendant qualified to succeed shall have attained his majority. The appanage of the heir presumptive to the duchies is fixed from his majority at 18,000 florins (about 1800*l.*) a year. According to this arrangement, upon the death of the reigning duke, who has no child, Prince Alfred would become the heir presumptive, and Prince Albert immediately succeeding.

The *Austrian Gazette* announces that a peasants' war has broken out in the Russian province of Ukraine, and is fast extending.

Prince Gortschakoff, it is said, has renewed the tenancy of his hotel at Vienna for another six months. This is rather significant.

A letter from Moscow of the 19th in the *Patrie* says:—"The religious fanaticism of the people is more excited here than at St. Petersburg. The churches are constantly filled; all the images of the celebrated saints are displayed, and after the usual services the priests address the most violent harangues to the people, who leave the churches in a kind of frenzy against the enemies of Russia, and express themselves ready to give their very last kopeck to the Czar towards the expenses of the war. Among the tradesmen there are a number who are very rich, and it is in a great measure on them that the charges of the war fall most heavily. Notwithstanding the agitation which prevails, the French, however, are respected and continue their various vocations without any hindrance; they are even the objects of attention to which they were not before accustomed. The rich lords who visit their establishments talk with them of the French army, the Zouaves, and Chasseurs de Vincennes, whose courage and address the Russian gazettes sometimes mention. It is said that a convoy of prisoners is on the march from Perekop to the interior, and that they will pass through this city. The nobility become every day more and more discontented; they begin to suffer from the rigorous blockade to which Russia is subjected on all sides, and they fear a complete prohibition of exports for all the natural productions of the country, even into Germany, if the war should become general. A new outlet for merchandise has just been opened by the Vistula and the Niemen, whence the goods pass into Prussia and reach Lubeck, and thence are conveyed to Hamburg. All the pupils of the School of Cadets have been put on active service. The streets of Moscow are now unprovided with hackney coaches, as all the able-bodied coachmen are taken for the army."

The *Donau*, a Vienna journal, has an article under the title of "Can Austria remain neutral?" the upshot of which is to prove that she cannot, and that the Allies have "a right" to her assistance.

Prince Menschikoff, on the 12th of March, bade farewell to the army of the Crimea, in an order of the day written at Perekop. On the 15th the new Emperor addressed a very flattering letter to him, in which it is stated that he is relieved from his command at his own request, and on account of his shattered health. Alexander has conferred on him the palace of the Etat Major of the Marine at St. Petersburg. We do not hear anything more of the old general's death.

The opening of the French Exhibition has been postponed till the middle of May.

Lord Clarendon, in officially announcing to the French Ambassador at London the conferring of a baronetcy upon the Lord Mayor, says that the intention of the Queen was to testify by this high favour, which is only granted when the Sovereigns of Great Britain visit the City in person, the particular satisfaction she experienced at the reception given by the corporation of London to their Imperial Majesties.

Prince Christian of Denmark returned on the 27th ult. to Copenhagen from his mission to the Russian Court.

A report from the Admiralty says that the Oberon was despatched to Broussa to assist those British subjects who were thrown into distress by the late earthquakes. Upon the Oberon returning to Constantinople, she brought with her the English Consul, and some others. The Consul states that "a very severe shock of an earthquake on the 28th February did great damage to the city, and many lives were lost, and from that time there has been a continued succession of shocks more or less severe; that on the 11th of April, a shock of still greater severity, followed by a most destructive fire, reduced the city to a heap of ruins, and the unfortunate inhabitants have, in many instances, lost the whole of their property. These earthquakes have been attended with the usual phenomenon of the wells drying up; but the last have produced an extraordinary increase in the quantity of hot water thrown out by the springs which supply the mineral baths."

Some doubts were entertained as to whether the Queen would give her consent to the bill for the sale of the Church property; but the Minister of Finance, who went to Aranjuez, has returned, and it is said that the royal sanction will be given without any opposition. A report is current that the Papal Nuncio has protested against the promulgation of the law.

AGITATIONS IN TURIN.—The utmost discontent has been produced at Turin by the conduct of the king towards the Court of Rome, relative to the law on the suppression of convents. On the 28th, 29th, and 30th, several bands of students, preceded by the tricolor flag, made a pacific demonstration against the retrograde decision of the king. They cried, "Viva la legge Rattazzi!" On Friday, the 28th, they were met on the Piazza Castello by the ex-Ministers Cavour, Rattazzi, and Cibrario, who stopped to harangue them, and urged them not to doubt the king's sincerity in favour of free institutions. On the following day, however, a proclamation having been issued by the new Minister Durando, indicating that the Government intended to enter into an honourable and dignified understanding with Rome, the discontent increased, and demonstrations became more frequent and imposing. On Sunday, the 30th, the Piazza d'Ormi, the Piazza Castello, and the Contrada Nuova, were obstructed by a very numerous crowd of students, who proceeded to the Piazza Vittorio Emanuele, where one of them addressed his companions, inciting them to remain firm in their design of not suffering the Government to come to terms with the Court of Rome. Squadrons of cavalry and troops of the line were sent to disperse them, and a few arrests were made. No violence has stained this protest of the young students. A deputation from their body, supported by the members of the Parliament Berti and Abbene, framed a petition to be presented to the King. The *Unione* contains the following notice:—"It is known that the King feels repugnance to treat with Rome; but it is rumoured that the Bishops propose to conciliate all by an abdication and a Regency. We can come but to one conclusion as to the policy of this step: If Victor Emmanuel II. abdicates, he abdicates for himself, his sons, his successors; hence in a few years the Kingdom of Sardinia will have ceased to exist."

Baron Hess's journey to the army in Galicia is postponed.

The cholera has made its appearance at Galata, Maslak, and even at Pera.

Count Cavour and all his colleagues in the Sardinian Ministry have resigned, and the King has accepted their resignation, which has arisen out of the opposition to the Convents Bill. A despatch of the 26th ult. says: "The Senate, at its sitting to-day, adjourned the discussion on the bill relative to the Convents, in consequence of a proposition for paying the sum of 900,000fr. a year to the clergy, the annual allowance to whom will no longer figure in the budget." The next despatch, dated the 27th, makes it probable that the proposition was likely to be carried. It reads: In consequence of the proposition relative to the allocation for the clergy presented to the Senate by the bishops, the Ministry gave in their resignation, which was accepted by the King; and M. Durando, Minister of War, was charged by his Majesty with the formation of a new cabinet." A later account says that General Durando announced to the Senate on the 3rd of May that, an agreement with the bishops not having been come to, the former Ministry resumes office, and that the discussion on the Convents Suppression Bill would be resumed on Saturday.

STATE OF TRADE, LABOUR, AND THE POOR.

The Manchester cloth markets for the last fortnight have been in a state of inactivity; and, although the intelligence of a further reduction of discounts by the Bank of England has been received with satisfaction, business has not recovered. The corn markets, however, are buoyant. From Nottingham we hear that all the lace trade is a little more animated, and that there is a continuance of activity in the hosiery trade, while yarns continue firm and unaltered in price; the labour market, nevertheless, is depressed, and many operatives are out of employment. At Huddersfield,

little business is doing in the cloth markets; but at Rochdale, the demand for flannels continues steady. The reports from the iron districts of South Staffordshire are, if anything, more favourable; and the coal trade, now that the strike of the colliers has nearly terminated, is improving. Speaking generally, the trades of Birmingham are not very brisk. The linen markets of the North of Ireland are quiet; but there is a greatly increased demand for flax seed.

The monthly returns of the Board of Trade (says the *Times*) have been issued; but, as there is a departure from the usual period to which they are dated they do not afford the ordinary means of comparison. They thus include but twenty-two working days instead of twenty-seven, as in past years, and therefore, as contrasted with those for the month ending 5th of April, 1854, are five days short. Hence the various totals present an undue diminution, and the declared value of exports appears to be only 7,311,305*l.* against 10,042,754*l.* in the corresponding month of 1854, whereas, by allowing for five days extra, the amount would be raised to about 9,000,000*l.*, showing an actual falling off of not more than 1,000,000*l.*, a result much less unsatisfactory than in the preceding month, when it was 2,470,496*l.* Metals seem to have experienced the greatest decline, owing to the diminished demand for iron for railway works in the United States and elsewhere. Woollen, cotton, linen, and silk manufactures have likewise been much depressed, as well as haberdashery, hardware, and saddlery, the reaction in the Australian markets being especially felt in the three latter branches of production.

OUR CIVILISATION.

JOHN TAHAN, the militiaman whose attack with a bayonet upon a policeman was narrated in the *Leader* of April 21st, has been sentenced at the Middlesex Sessions to nine months' hard labour.

DOG-STEALING.—Mr. Bishop, the gun-maker of Bond-street, who was recently charged with being accessory to stealing a dog, and who reappeared upon remand, has been discharged, the magistrate being of opinion that Mr. Bishop had no corrupt intention in receiving the money for the restoration of the dog, but only a kind desire to assist his customers. He thought, however, that the accused had been injudicious, and trusted he would be more careful in future.

GEORGE MERCER has been committed for trial at Marlborough-street, for obtaining goods from various tradesmen by means of forged orders purporting to be sent by the Earl of Onslow.

SEDUCTION BY A YOUTH OF A GIRL OF FIFTEEN.—Fifty pounds damages have been given in an action for seduction, in which the defendant was under age and the girl less than fifteen at the time of the offence. The latter in her evidence stated that the defendant had made a previous attempt upon her virtue, and yet that after that attempt she had consented to walk out with him again.

A PAINFUL CASE.—An old man was on Thursday brought before the Clerkenwell magistrate, charged with cutting his throat and attempting to throw himself over a parapet. An elderly woman residing in the same house, gave evidence to the effect that, after a frightful struggle, she pulled him back as he was flinging himself over. The prisoner, in answer to the magistrate, said that he was deprived of the society of his children, and kept by himself in a room, and that he felt lonely and uncomfortable, and became at times very low-spirited. His wife and son being called, the latter, in a very brutal manner, charged his father, whom he called "this man," with having ill-used his mother. This statement was supported by the mother; but the magistrate, not believing it, ordered the old man to go to the workhouse. He also highly praised the courageous exertions of the woman who saved his life, and ordered her a gratuity out of the poor-box.

NAVAL AND MILITARY NEWS.

INSUBORDINATION OF THE ANGLESEY MILITIA.—A short time ago, it was mentioned in the morning papers that this regiment, stationed at Beaumaris, was in a state of disgraceful anarchy; that the men were constantly drunk; that the officers had been obliged to draw their swords in sheer self-defence; and that the townspeople, being alarmed, had petitioned for the removal of the regiment. These statements were emphatically and indignantly denied by the commanding officer in a letter to the *Times*; but the *Daily News*, having caused inquiries to be made on the spot, has discovered that the assertions were strictly true. It publishes the following official report, presented by the borough police-officer of Beaumaris to the Watch Committee:—"Friday, March 30.—About six p.m., the town being put into great confusion by the militiamen being drunk and fighting in all directions of it, I called, with Mr. T. A. Dew, upon the sergeant-major, to know if he intended to send out a picket to look after the men who were setting the town in an uproar. He said that he could not; that the tradespeople and authorities of the town had set the men against them; that they could exercise no discipline on them; that he was in danger himself, and going to lock up his house. He afterwards said that it was the officer of the day, Mr. Roberts, that was to order pickets out,

who was not in town. I again called upon Captain Jones, who asked me to tell the sergeant-major to send a picket out, and to send a man up to Heully's, to acquaint Captain Hampton of the state of the town. He said he would send to Heully's, but would not send out a picket, for he could not get them, and that the towns might thank themselves for it. And no picket being sent out, I got seven constables out for the night." In addition to the disorders here detailed, the following incidents may be mentioned:—"On Easter Tuesday, two militiamen were drinking at the Marquis Tavern. Some words arose between one of them and a person present. The militiaman pulled out a pistol, and presented it at his antagonist. The landlady, frightened, begged him to be quiet; on which he turned round and fired the pistol at the woman. Some of the shots passed through her cap and knocked it off her head. The woman has been urged to prosecute, but declines. Later, a militiaman, kept waiting for his pay after being discharged, was at the Old Bull, tipsy. On being refused more drink, he snatched a knife off the table, and attempted to stab the female servant. Again, on Sunday (April 22), a militiaman pulled out his bayonet, and striking another man (a civilian) with it across the head and face, threatened to run him through, and made a thrust at his body. The man narrowly escaped."

THE CURRAGH OF KILDARE.—The commander of the forces, Lord Seaton, proceeded to the Curragh of Kildare on Saturday morning, to inspect the progress of the works in the formation of the encampment. His lordship, attended by Major Colborne and Sir L. Newman, aides-de-camp, was accompanied by Colonel Doyle and Colonel Wood.

A COURT-MARTIAL assembled at Plymouth, on Monday morning, on board the flagship *Impregnable*, 104, to inquire into the circumstances connected with the grounding of the paddle-wheel steam-sloop *Hecla*, 6, on the morning of the 23rd of January last, at the back of the rock of Gibraltar; and to try her commanding officer, Henry Samuel Hawker, and her master, E. J. H. Tucker, for their conduct on that occasion. The court considered the commander to blame, and adjudged him to be severely reprimanded. The master was sentenced to be dismissed from the *Hecla*, and to lose two years' service.

ADMIRAL DUNDAS.—We learn from Copenhagen that at noon on Wednesday, the 25th ult., Admiral Dundas, Commander-in-Chief of the Baltic fleet, arrived there on board the steam-sloop *Dragon*, from Kiel. The admiral landed, immediately after his arrival, at the Custom-house-quay, and proceeded to the British Embassy. On the 27th he had an interview with the King of Denmark.

LOSS OF THE CRESCUS BY FIRE.—The *Crescus*, English screw-transport, has been destroyed by fire. The *Corriere Mercantile* of Genoa, of the 25th ult., gives the following brief account of the catastrophe:—"She left Genoa at ten a.m.; and, in about an hour, her provision of coal was found to be on fire. After several vain efforts to get the conflagration under, the steamer was brought back to Fruchioso, which she reached about noon. Everybody who remained on board was saved; but three or four soldiers who threw themselves into the sea have not been heard of since. The captain and crew did their duty manfully, and were aided as much as possible by the soldiers on board, 287 in number, belonging to the Engineering Corps and the commissariat. The *Pedestrian*, a large sailing transport, was in tow of the *Crescus*; but she returned safe to Genoa, being afterwards taken in tow by the *Nubia* steamer." We read in the *Opinion*:—"The conflagration of the *Crescus* is accounted for as follows:—"It is well known that when a mass of coal has been several times exposed to rain a sort of phosphoric oxide forms itself on its surface, which becomes easily inflamed when the motion of the steamer occasions a certain friction and brings the masses of coal in contact with each other. The fatal accident which destroyed the *Crescus* cannot be attributed to any other cause. The captain, whose conduct was above all praise, ordered the rope which served to tow the *Pedestrian* to be cut, for the double reason that the latter was laden with gunpowder, and that her weight retarded the progress of the steamer. The boatmen on shore displayed little zeal in assisting the shipwrecked. Two poor women, sisters, threw themselves into a boat, and by dint of rowing they reached the wreck; but, too many soldiers having rushed into the boat, it sank, and those two courageous women disappeared and perished, victims of their devotedness." One of them has left eight children. The numbers of victims is now thought to be eight or ten.—The *Crescus* was one of the iron screw-steamers built for the General Steam Shipping Company by the Messrs. Mare, of Blackwall. She belonged originally to the Australian line; but has recently been taken up by the Government as a transport ship. After carrying out the Wiltshire Militia, she was ordered to convey the Sardinian contingent to Constantinople; and she had these on board when she left Genoa. Three months' provisions for the contingent were lost; but the French have undertaken to victual them. The Sardinian Government has made great exertions to dispatch the troops in other vessels."

REAR-ADMIRAL CORRY died at Paris on Tuesday night. He was captain-superintendent of the packet service at Southampton, and last year was second in command of the Baltic fleet, until ill-health obliged him to resign.

THE DAUNTLESS, in firing on the batteries of Sebastopol, recently took fire from the effect of a shell. A gun in the captain's cabin burst, wounding four men and a boy; but the flames were soon got under.

THE BALTIC AND THE FLEET.—All the ships of the fleet got under weigh, and quitted the harbour of Kiel on Thursday morning. The *Moniteur* says:—"It appears from a letter addressed to the Minister of Marine by the French Consul at Stettin, that the navigation between that port and Swinemunde has been reopened for some days. The high tides, however, require extreme caution on the part of pilots and commanders of vessels in consequence of the inundations, which have placed the coast under water. Some small craft have already been lost. The boats between Stettin and Copenhagen have been running since the 18th of April. They will also commence running to Stockholm shortly." The opening of the Neva was announced by a salute of cannon.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The loyal and constitutional *Daily News* (we do not speak ironically) bristles up at the misapprehension existing in some quarters about the character of the agitation for Administrative Reform. There is no misapprehension at all; but only a decided apprehension that those who expect to abolish aristocracy and party appointments without abolishing aristocracy and party, are in a Paradise not of the wise.

We earnestly appeal to the generous sympathies of our readers in behalf of the forlorn condition of the two youngest children of the late Sir Henry Bishop. The last sufferings of his deathbed were sharpened by a father's anxieties, which it is the sacred object of the Committee to commit to the charity of all who have the heart to hold the memory of genius in affectionate respect. The compositions of such men as he who has just passed from amongst us are identified with some of the happiest and the purest moments of our lives; and it would be a reproach to the country if it forgot the enchanter who has delighted, soothed, elated, and refined it, now that he can no longer minister to its pleasure. Sir Henry Bishop has for half a century given England the benefit of the children of his brain: England, we are sure, will not forget in their need the children of his heart.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL arrived in London from Vienna in the course of Sunday last. He had started on the previous Monday.

GREAT FIRE AND LOSS OF LIFE.—A very serious and alarming conflagration broke out on Tuesday morning on the premises of a stationer and lithographic printer in Leadenhall-street. All the inmates got off, with the exception of an apprentice; but the fire-escape having been rendered unavailable by an explosion of gas which blew the shop-windows and shutters into the street, the poor youth could not be saved. The fire extended to several adjoining houses; firemen mounted some neighbouring roofs, and, by pouring down a constant stream of water, they succeeded in subduing the flames. While so occupied, one of the firemen fell through a glass roof, and was seriously injured. The accident was caused by the weight of presses in the warehouse, which amounted to nearly four tons, forcing down floor after floor in rapid succession, and making so great a vibration in the adjoining house that the fireman was thrown down.

GREAT FIRE AT MILLWALL.—A fire broke out in the ship-building yard at Millwall, Poplar, of Messrs. John Scott Russell and Co. The fire was first discovered about nine o'clock on Thursday night in the newly-built floating battery to be named the *Etna*. This battery was neighboured on one side by another vessel to be termed the *Wave Queen*; and the battery was bounded on the other side by a screw collier. The most strenuous exertions were made to collect the hands; but before any one could render assistance the flames rushed between the iron plates of the battery, firing the timbers, and eventually the heat became so great that the iron plates, 4½ inches thick, started in several places, when the flames rose to a great height. The floating engine from her Majesty's Dockyard was brought quickly, set to work, and was followed by the float from Rotherhithe, and the steam floating engine from the Southwark Bridge. About eleven o'clock a frightful some took place, as the ponderous vessel, in a thorough state of ignition, glided off the stock into the river, amidst the shrieks of some thousand persons who were in boats at the mouth of the dock. Eight jumped into the water, fearing that the blazing vessel would fall upon them. The whole were recovered by the Thames police and watermen. The engines of the London Brigade and West of England office were worked with full vigour; and at length the flames were got under. No lives were lost.

A MODEST BISHOP.—A few weeks since, the Rev. Dr. Vidal, Bishop of Sierra Leone, died, and the Government offered the see to the Rev. T. W. Weeks, incumbent of St. Thomas's Church, Lambeth. The rev.

gentleman intimated his willingness to accept the appointment upon one condition—namely, that his letters patent should not confer upon him any right or claim to be called "my lord," as is the case with all the other colonial prelates. This somewhat singular request has been complied with by the Government; and the new bishop's designation will be not "my lord," or "my lord bishop," but "right reverend sir."

LAMENTABLE LOSS OF LIFE.—One of the Anst passage ferry-boats was capsized on Monday, with a loss of seven lives. The boat was crossing from the Monmouthshire side with live stock and eight or ten passengers, when, as she was making for the pier, she struck against one of the piles and went down almost immediately. Her crew, four in number, contrived to save their lives; but seven passengers were drowned. Two of the survivors had narrow escapes, one being saved by clinging to a mast, and another holding on to a cow, which, in her struggles for the land, drew him into shallow water.

SIR HENRY BISHOP died on Monday night after a severe illness, proximately occasioned by a surgical operation. Sir Henry was a Londoner, and was born in 1780. The distressed circumstances into which he had fallen gave rise to an appeal to the public in his behalf, which was only issued a few days before his death.

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, May 5.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THERE was some discussion on the third reading of the Loan Bill, originated by Lord MONTAGUE, who objected to the clause providing for the repayment of a million a year on the return of peace.

The bill was read a third time and passed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE VIENNA CONFERENCE.

MR. DISRAELI took occasion to complain of the delay in laying before the House the papers relative to the negotiations at Vienna, which ought to have been ready on the day on which the plenipotentiary returned home. That was the usual course, and as it was not followed he wished to know the reason for this departure from custom. In the case of the negotiations of 1796 with France, the papers were produced the day before Lord Malmesbury returned, and though very voluminous, were preceded by a royal message, and accompanied by an important state paper containing the ministerial statement of all that had taken place, and a notice for the consideration of the papers was immediately given. He compared this readiness to give information to Parliament with the indifference and tardiness now exhibited. Up to this moment the House was in ignorance of the real basis on which the negotiations were carried on. Why had not the Government deigned to communicate with Parliament under such momentous circumstances?

LORD PALMERSTON said that the precedent of 1796 was not applicable, as that was an occasion when all hopes of peace were at an end; while the present negotiations were not concluded, although adjourned, and there was even now, through the mediation of Austria, some movement which might lead to a renewal of negotiations. In 1796, also, the basis of negotiations was refused by France, whereas now it was conceded by Russia. That being so, it was not necessary or wise for the Government to act as if all hope of peace was at an end; and while the Government would continue every exertion to carry on the contest in which we were engaged, it should not be said of them that they were the first to shut the door against all chance of an honourable accommodation of our differences with Russia.

THE PLAN OF LORD DUNDONALD FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF SEBASTOPOL.

In answer to Mr. FRENCH, LORD PALMERSTON expressed the highest opinions of the professional and scientific attainments of Lord Dundonald, and stated that last year a plan proposed by him had been considered by scientific and professional persons, and in their opinion there was difficulty in the execution and doubt of the result of the plan, so that nothing was done. A plan had been recently proposed to the Government by Lord Dundonald, and it was still under consideration, and he thought, while any such plan was under consideration, it was not advisable to attract notice to it.

THE MILITIA.

MR. H. BAILLIE called attention to the state of the militia force in the United Kingdom. He urged that it had been completely disorganised; while at the same time the army was still 40,000 below the number voted by Parliament, and nothing had been done in raising the Foreign Legion. He declared that in his opinion there was more vigour in the War-office, under the Duke of Newcastle than under the Government of Lord Palmerston, who was to do such great things; and he urged Lord J. Russell,

who had looked very sharply after the Duke of Newcastle, to have an equally vigilant eye on Lord Panmure. He believed the just indignation of the people would not long be restrained at this waste of the resources of the country.

MR. F. PEEL said, in the last two months at least 10,000 men (English troops) had been sent to the Crimea. With regard to the militia, there had been a considerable inroad into their ranks, in consequence of the allowing the men enlisted under the Act of 1852 to retire; but the present Government was not responsible for the operation of the Act of 1854, which did not include the men enlisted under the Act of 1852. The present force of the militia in England, not counting the men who had gone home, who were still liable for service at home next year, and the regiments who had gone abroad, was not more than 25,000. It was not, however, intended at present to resort to the ballot.

Colonel KNOX proposed that greater attention should be paid to the militia, which was in a most unsatisfactory state, and the commanding officers could get no assistance from the War-office in bringing these regiments into a state of efficiency.

MR. BENTINCK complained of the inactivity of the Government with regard to the Foreign Legion.

Colonel GILPIN said, as a colonel of militia he had always been well treated by the War Department. He thought that the manner in which the Government had acted with regard to the militiamen enlisted in 1852 might have been more judicious.

A discussion followed, in which Colonel North, Mr. Bellow, Mr. H. Herbert, and others took part.

SIR G. GREY said there was no intention to resort to the ballot, the voluntary system still continued to act well; no less than 4512 men having enlisted in the month of April. The effective strength of the militia in the United Kingdom was 42,491. As regarded the Foreign Enlistment, it would proceed as rapidly as possible whenever the authorities of foreign countries were favourable to the cause of the Western Powers.

SIR J. PAKINGTON wished to know whether the report was true that 25,000 Germans were expected to arrive in this country to-morrow quite unexpectedly? (Laughter.)

SIR G. GREY said the report might be true, but he was not aware of the fact.

Some further conversation followed, in which Mr. ADDERLEY suggested that ticket-of-leave convicts might be enrolled in a corps to do task-work in the Crimea.

The adjourned debate on the Tenant's (Ireland) Compensation Bill was then proceeded with.

The debate occupied until a quarter-past twelve o'clock, when the Government having assented to the second reading, reserving to themselves the right of dealing with some of the clauses in committee, a very animated and somewhat personal discussion took place, and

MR. GREGAN having moved that the bill be read a second time that day six months, the House divided, and the numbers were—

For the second reading..... 163
Against it 50

Majority 113

The Spirit Duties Bill and the Customs Duties Bill passed through committee.

The Newspaper Stamp Duties Bill (third reading) was postponed till Monday.

The other business was disposed of, and the House adjourned at half-past one o'clock.

A despatch from Lord Raglan, dated the 21st of April, was published yesterday evening. It has reference chiefly to the English attack on the Russian rifle-pits, and mentions the deaths on that occasion of Colonel Egerton and Captain Lempiere.

Berlin, Thursday, May 3.

The session of the Prussian Chambers was closed to-day by a speech from Baron Manteuffel. After enumerating the various legislative enactments passed this session, the Ministerial speech promises that the credits granted will be used as economically as consistent with duty in the presence of an army prepared for war, during the actual unsettled state of affairs, so as to vindicate the independence and position of Prussia as a great Power.

The Jura, the Europa, and the Thames, have sailed from Genoa, each with a store-transport in tow, and bound for Constantinople. General La Marmora has sailed for the same destination.

It was rumoured in Paris on Thursday, that a telegraphic despatch had arrived there from General Canrobert, who anticipates an offensive movement on the part of the enemy.

Warsaw, 2nd.

Thirty-two thousand Grenadiers are on their march from Poland into Lithuania. The Emperor and General Rudiger are expected. The amnesty has arrived.

Latest Edition.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, Noon.

SUCCESSFUL ENGAGEMENT BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.

ALL THE RIFLE PITS TAKEN.

THE following intelligence reached Lord Panmure late yesterday:—

"A sharp engagement took place on the night of the 1st of May in front and left attack. The whole of the Russian rifle pits were taken, eight light mortars, and 200 prisoners. The whole affair was brilliant for the Allies."

CONTINUATION OF THE CONTEST.

(By Submarine Telegraph.)

The *Daily News* has the following:—

"Before Sebastopol, Friday Morning, May, 4.

"On the night of Wednesday last, May 2, the French under General Pelissier having taken up a position before the Quarantine Bastion, advanced briskly upon the Bastion No. 4, attacked the advanced works which the Russians had raised to protect that Bastion, and carried them at the point of the bayonet.

"In this attack the French took twelve mortars from the enemy. The Engineers immediately occupied the ground, and began to carry on a flying sap. At daybreak they had succeeded in establishing themselves in the conquered works.

"Last night (Thursday) the Russians made a general sortie, with the object of retaking the lost ground. After a sanguinary combat, they were driven back into the place.

"Our losses have been great, but bear no proportion to those of the enemy, nor to the advantages gained.

"This (Friday) morning, the Russians have neither a man nor a gun outside the regular enclosure of the place."

INSURRECTION IN THE UKRAINE.

PRIVATE letters from St. Petersburg (says the *Daily News*) confirm the telegraphic announcement of the insurrection of the peasants in the Ukraine, and state further that it has already extended to the governments of Poltawa, Tchernigoff, and Kharkoff. Great cruelties have been committed. At St. Petersburg, every article is at famine price.

SERIOUS DISTURBANCES IN THE WAR PRISON AT LEWES.

YESTERDAY, the Russian prisoners refused to pump water from the wells, and were deprived of some of their meals until they should become more orderly. They then drew forth knives, and attacked the guard of pensioners. The Sussex militia were sent for, and arrived by special train. Ultimately, the prisoners were disarmed of their weapons, and about a dozen were placed under restraint.

GUELONG AND MELBOURNE RAILWAY.—This line, the pioneer of the railway system in Australia, is in course of rapid construction, and by the last advices the opening of the Harbour branch and a portion of the line was expected to take place early in June next.

PRINCE LUCIEN BONAPARTE.—On Saturday last, Prince Louis Lucien Bonaparte met with a serious accident at his residence in Westbourne-grove West. He was ascending some steps in his library to reach a book, when, accidentally slipping, he fell and broke his leg. He is going on well.

ALARM OF FIRE AT DRURY-LANE THEATRE.—During the performance of *La Sonnambula* on Wednesday night at Drury-lane Theatre, an alarm of fire was caused by a gentleman in the boxes, who fancied he saw smoke arising from a part of the proscenium. A great many of the audience rushed out of the theatre, and the crush at the doors was so great, that it was feared some fatal result would have occurred from the pressure; but fortunately no accidents happened, and the alarm proved a false one. Mr. Stirling, the stage-manager came forward on the stage, and assured those who remained that there was no cause to be alarmed; and Mr. Smith, the lessee, gave the same assurance from one of the private boxes. Order was in consequence after a short time restored, and the performance proceeded.

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NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.—The publisher regrets to announce that, in consequence of an accident at this office, several advertisements which were intended for insertion in the present number of the *Leader* are unavoidably excluded.

During the Session of Parliament it is often impossible to find room for correspondence, even the briefest.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of his good faith.

Communications should always be legibly written, and on one side of the paper only. If long, it increases the difficulty of finding space for them.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, MAY 5, 1855.

Public Affairs.

There is nothing so revolutionary, because there is nothing so unnatural and convulsive, as the strain to keep things fixed when all the world is by the very law of its creation in eternal progress.—DR. ARNOLD

THE FALLING SICKNESS OF THE NATION.

We are engaged, and wellnigh worsted, in a vast war, of which, so far from seeing the end, we do not even know the object. Officially it is the integrity and independence of an empire which we all know very well we intend ultimately to partition, and which we do not and never shall allow to have a will of its own. According to some, it is the promotion of the interests of civilisation, a noble object, but somewhat extensive and scarcely military. In the eyes of the mass of the people it is a crusade against despotism, in which we are embarked with the despot of Turkey and the libicide of France for our actual allies, and the absolute Emperor of Austria, the would-be Autocrat of Prussia, and the Shah of Persia, if we can get them. We have lost one army. We are in a fair way to lose another. We have become the vassals, not of France (we would it were of France) but of the French adventurer, of whom his most intimate confederates and most abject sycophants were telling us the other day that he was, in the new slang of political roguery, "Master of the Situation;" and who is most earnestly recommended to our absolute confidence by those who owe him a peace-offering for having treated him as a wolf. Our national name has passed away like a dream; we are sinking deeper into the mire of debt; our military resources and levies seem exhausted; and we have every prospect that a spring drought can give of a wet summer and a bad harvest. And what does this situation evoke among our statesmen? Greatness or resource equal to the emergency? Not even serious apprehension of it. Not even a manly sense of the dangers of the country. Nothing but Byzantine rhetoric and Byzantine intrigue. Between the shallowness of public men and the giddiness of the people, very few—very few indeed—have eyes to see, or hearts to feel, the horrible position into which we are drifting.

The most promising thing visible is the movement against aristocratic incompetence in high places. But even this movement is carried on with a miserable narrowness of scope and a miserable blindness to the real source of the evil. Its leaders are sincere, but short-sighted and noisy men, without

greatness of purpose or high morals, who narrow the issue down to petty personalities, and who, when they are proved wrong in those personalities, have not the sense and manliness, not to say the honesty, to retreat. The followers are, for the most part, men quite as chargeable with the inefficiency of our public men as the aristocracy themselves. They are City merchants, who never send to Parliament any but a very rich man. They are constituencies of small rural boroughs who send to Parliament any aristocratic or moneyed blockhead who will buy them. They are fanatics who decimate the ability of Parliament in the interest of their fanaticism. The merchants of Liverpool are very forward in the crusade against nepotism; but did they not turn out Mr. CARDWELL, one of our most valuable and upright public servants, and put some nameless respectability in his place because he would not degrade himself to the level of their bigotry about Roman Catholics and Maynooth? There is a general want of political virtue. There is levity, sycophancy, cupidity, bigotry, indifference in the people, as well as incompetence and frivolity in the rulers. What sort of Ministers does a nation deserve or expect which elected the present House of Commons?

We have met with reverses, and under the guidance of our Imperial patron we shall meet with more. And how will this nation bear them? We are not like those republics which had soldiers as long as they had men, and the simple lives of whose citizens placed all their wealth at the disposal of the State. Physical courage we still have, and our noble soldiers have displayed it in as high a degree as ever it was displayed by man: their valour, appreciated by our ally, is a sure protection to our coasts than his caresses. But as a nation, we are luxurious and effeminate; we all live up to the very utmost of our means, and feel every penny of increased taxation. We have already come to loans. We went swaggering into the war, with the *Times* blustering at our head; but we do not swagger now. How will it be if we find ourselves alone in Europe, without an army, and with all the world our enemies? It is as well to be prepared even for that situation.

We are tired of crying *exoriare aliquis!* What is not in the House of Commons cannot come out of it. If there had been a great man there, he would have shown himself long before this. He would have come forward to define, with authority, the real object of the war, and to take its conduct into his own hands. We repeat, with the weariness of despair, the roll of too familiar names. Mr. BRIGHT and Mr. COBDEN might help us if they were not Quakers. Mr. GLADSTONE might help us, if he were not checked by Puseyite casuistries and Conservative qualms. They have all their *ifs*. They have all their personalities, their connexions, and their hitches. The whole political world is full of intrigues—Whigs jobbing for their clique, and Tories shamming democracy to trip up the Whigs, and restore the glorious reign of promotion by merit and political integrity in the persons of the old Derbyite administration. A dissolution would be an appeal to the people to send up some good men, if they have any; and they would probably respond to that appeal by sending up a large majority of sons of peers and directors of joint-stock companies, pledged to support Mr. SPOONER on the question of Maynooth.

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMERS.

THE men of the middle class who have taken up the task of reforming the Administration, will find the work as slow and toilsome as the siege of a strong town. The enemy is

carefully concealed; the plan of the place is a secret; and there will be innumerable sorties to divert the attack. But it is an enterprise of great pith and moment, well worth a hard struggle, and well worthy of those hard-fisted gentlemen who do business in great waters and make for us our iron roads.

The first difficulty will be found in the general ignorance of the subject. Few men know anything of the inner working of our Government offices. They know the character of the working by its results in the Crimea, but they cannot trace the particular sources of the evil. It would be easy to impute general corruption, but it would be unjust. There is not much gross corruption in the civil service. There are few flagrant jobs. There are instances now and again where persons, utterly incompetent, have been forced into offices by political influence—young men, for example, thrust into an accountant's office without the least fitness or aptitude for the duties—or political adventurers and fashionable swindlers placed at the head of an office without any reference to special qualifications. But in nine cases out of ten such appointments do little harm—and even that little can be neutralised if the clerks in the middle ranks be clever and energetic. In short, it is on this middle class of clerks that the efficiency of the service depends: and in its mismanagement we find the cause of the present break-down. It is recruited from raw lads sent in anyhow from among the nominees of Members of Parliament; and at the top of the tree its career of promotion is stopped by the intrusion of men little better than FRANK VILLIERS. Conceive the position of a chief clerk having twenty clerks under him, and interested in doing well the work of his office. His name is never known to the public; he has no hope that any one outside the office will ever hear of his exertions; and he knows that the political chief of the office is too adroit to speak in Parliament or elsewhere of the service of his subordinate. Thus discouraged from above, he finds at the other end of the service from time to time a fresh infusion of untrained young men, who have entered the office with the intention of having a "snug berth," and who never had a notion of work.

The position is similar to that of a sergeant in the army retained at some doomed depot—always drilling recruits, and never allowed to rise beyond a certain rank in the regiment. Were this middle class of the civil service allowed to recruit itself from the business world, were it allowed to cull from the City, from the railway offices, from professional life, good men, accustomed to hard work, and having the fresh spirit of new men, the service could be made thoroughly efficient. But if all the merchants in the City went tomorrow to Lord PALMERSTON and said, "We give you our best clerks," his lordship (after the usual pleasantries) would say, "Mr. CLIFFORD, make out appointments for these gentlemen as junior clerks at 907. a year each." It is in this want of elasticity, in this damning want of adaptation to circumstances, that the weak part of the service lies. While this war has caused stir and change in every other department of national exertion, the civil service lies in the midst of English life a dead branch. Its course of promotion is still the same; its hours of work are still the same; it still haunts long useless corridors leading to queer and dark rooms—sometimes very large, sometimes very small, and the only sign of life is the punctuality of luncheon.

One of the worst features, perhaps, in the whole service, is the utter disregard shown by the political chiefs for the peculiar capa-

bilities of men. There is Sir CHARLES TREVELLYAN, for instance—a man of an earnest and almost romantic turn of mind—a man who has an ideal standard of morality, and is a first-rate judge of human nature. He was great in India, where his moral worth made itself felt among the natives and among the comparatively demoralised Europeans, and he would be a good commissary-general-in-chief—able to select subordinates with a glance of the eye, and to find out the best instruments on the spot. But he is chained to a desk in the Treasury—pottering over papers, and finding out whether the 31. 6s. 8½d. paid to JONES has been sanctioned by the estimates. There is a Mr. MULVANY, an Irish engineer, a man who has made his own reputation. He was, up to the other day, a commissioner of public works in Ireland; but he differed with some Irish landlords, and, right or wrong, was forced to resign. He is still in the prime of life, healthy and energetic. He would be exactly the man to aid an army in engineering work, but he is cast adrift at an expense to the public of 667½. a year pension. These are but a few mild instances of the want of tact among the authorities. They will not call to their aid good men from the other ranks of life, and they will not use the good men they already command.

Let us be permitted to repeat, the inevitable stumbling-block to the progress of the new association will be want of knowledge. They will make a thousand blunders in the beginning. In one phrase of their initiatory circular there is a sad confusion. They talk of "promotion for merit." Some of the worst appointments ever made by the Government are appointments for "merit." They give to some foolish old admiral an administrative post on account of his naval "merit;" they reward some partisan with a commissionership on account of his political "merit;" scientific "merit" finds its reward in some berth or other (no matter where, so that the salary be respectable); and even personal "merit" is duly rewarded. This is but the old dance to a new tune—the old dance which made Sir CHRISTOPHER HATTON a Lord Chancellor. It is so easy to administer business, it is so easy to rule clerks, direct complex operations, insure official order, promptitude, and care, that any man can do it. Therefore reward your fine old admirals by giving them easy chairs at the Admiralty; please your party by promoting your faithful friends into the Income-tax Commission; get your ministerial paper to give a puff for your appointment of scientific men to business posts—and do something pleasant for aristocratic defaulters. The worst administrators of official business in this country (and that is indeed a "lowest deep" that has no "lower") have been naval and military men. The man who is brave and ready in the camp and in the field is often fussy and feeble when surrounded by official details. It is a great mistake to suppose that a practical knowledge of the matter governed is necessary or useful for its official administration. The best First Lords of the Admiralty for years have been civilians, and the worst heads of the Ordnance and other boards have been military men. The one department of the war service which among all the others has been pre-eminent, and is still pre-eminent for mismanagement, is the Horse Guards, simply because Lord HARDINGE is no more "fit" to rule an office than he is to calculate the longitude. We might multiply particulars, but the inference is obvious. We want not "merit," but "fitness." No naval or military men should be at the "head" of any office. In offices connected with their profession their proper post is that of inspector and adviser; but civil service is a craft of its own,

and no man who has spent his life at sea or in the camp can be a good ruler of an office, except by some extraordinary genius not common in these days. It is the more necessary to lay down this doctrine, as we find the intense Mr. LAYARD blundering into the opposite error, by asking with a tone of surprise, was Sir THOMAS HASTINGS the only artillery officer on the Ordnance Board?

In difficulties like these the projected association will doubtless lose much time. But let them point the moral of the obstruction. Let them denounce the official reserve which makes a mystery of what should be as clear as noonday, and which, by concealing everything, facilitates everything bad, from wilful favouritism to innocent stupidity.

RECONSTRUCTION OF THE INDIAN ARMY.

THE force of public opinion has at length extorted from the British Oligarchy a tardy act of justice towards the officers of the Indian Army. Henceforth precedence is to be regulated, on either side of the Cape, by the date of commission, and thus one cause of the mutual jealousy that prevails between the two services has been very properly removed. But we cannot accept this measure as final and complete. We fear that it will prove a honeyed sop to still the clamours of the Press, and that it is intended by this slight concession to waive the weightier demands that are being urged by the officers of the Native Army. According to the letter of the Memorandum, the chief command of armies in India may be held by generals in the Company's service, and it will frequently happen that they shall be entitled to take precedence of those in the Royal Army. It is impossible, indeed, that it should be otherwise, unless the Horse Guards persist in sending out bedridden and septuagenarian warriors to fill the most important appointments. And it would be credulous to suppose that such valuable patronage will be lightly relinquished. At present, India furnishes a comfortable provision for effete old generals, and for members of the aristocracy militant, who are too poor or too incompetent to be paraded before the eyes of Europe. But if the new Memorandum be literally fulfilled, this convenient system must be consigned to Limbo, for it will be no longer practicable on earth. It will not suffice to have "served in the Peninsula" to obtain the command of an Indian army. A Company's general may now hope to attain the highest aim of his ambition, and to lead into the field the men whom he has trained to victory. But if his military talents and experience are of a character to render good service to his country, why should the sphere of their usefulness be confined to the East? Why should they not be made available in any quarter of the globe where such attributes may be needed? In the critical position of affairs that now prevails, there are many distinguished officers of the Company's service who might most profitably have been employed in the Crimea. Such men as Sir HUGH WHEELER, Colonel HODGSON, Brigadier MAYNE, and others whom it would be tedious to enumerate, might well have been entrusted with divisional commands; and many of their juniors have justly merited an opportunity of signalising themselves on a more glorious field than can be furnished in the distant regions of India. But this reciprocity of service does not appear to be contemplated by the new regulation, nor perhaps would it be practicable without introducing the privilege of exchanging into either branch of the National Army. And there is one great benefit to be derived from the system of exchange, in the fact that adventurous and truly mar-

tial spirits would flock to the branch that promised the best chance of active employment. If hostilities broke out in the East, the most enterprising men at home would hasten to the scene of action; and, in like manner, the officers of the Colonial Army would exert their interest to join their brethren in Europe in such a struggle as that in which we are now engaged. By this means, too, India would really become an excellent school for military knowledge, and the country would have a far greater number of experienced men from whom to choose her generals and commanders. But while we advocate the instruction of officers by Indian campaigns, we protest against the idea that foreign service in such a climate is beneficial to a royal regiment as a body. Military men are almost unanimous in repudiating the system of reliefs, for it induces a lamentable laxity of discipline, and for a long time impairs the efficiency of either corps, the relieving and the relieved. The Indian Army must be a permanent establishment, distinct from the home army with reference to the men, but homogeneous with respect to the officers. The highest appointments and commands should be conferred upon those alone who had served a certain number of years in the country, and become acquainted with the habits, manners, and usages of the people. When necessary, a portion of this Colonial Army might be conveyed to Europe, Africa, or Australia; for the prejudices entertained by the sepoys against crossing the "dark waters" of the ocean have been grossly exaggerated. If the officers exhibit tact and firmness, their men will follow them as faithfully and bravely as in the rough times of CLIVE and BAIRD.

MAYNOOTH AND ROME.

IN the midst of our disasters and dangers Parliament has still time and appetite for a Maynooth orgie. We have long become accustomed, and almost callous, to the existence of human beings who can convince themselves, and attempt to convince others, that to tax Catholics for the maintenance of a Protestant Church is an act of Christian charity, but that to tax Protestants to about a fiftieth part of the amount for the maintenance of a Catholic Church is a damnable abomination. We have learnt to endure the logic and morality of Spoonerites and the rhetorical sycophancy of Protestant lawyers getting up to curry favour with Providence and the Conservative benches by speaking from their briefs in favour of injustice. All this is common and familiar. The drunkenness and the thieving of the crew are old; but the burning ship is new. When every heart that can feel anything is full of the perils of England—when we ought to bury every difference of creed in the common efforts of a united people—when Catholic soldiers are mingling their blood with that of Protestants in the Crimea—a SPOONER is allowed to have his usual papist bait, with a full house, and an applauding *Times*.

Let the fanatics and hypocrites who think they can indulge in a little safe persecution of Roman Catholicism in Ireland, while they use the blood and sinews of Roman Catholic soldiers without scruple, consider what their conduct and that of this Protestant nation generally is with regard to Rome itself. The POPE OF ROME, we presume, is still the centre and life of Catholicism—the Antichrist, the Beast, the Man of Sin. And what keeps Antichrist on his throne for an hour? What forces Rome and Italy to bow to that Papal tyranny which they abhor, which they are burning and struggling to cast off, and even to tolerate which in their own country our Pro-

testants consider a pollution? We suppose all the anti-Maynooth fanatics have in their minds the answer to this question. But political convenience intervenes, and the hatred of liberty and justice is stronger than the hatred of Popery. The Roman Protestant who seeks to strike the blow that would have set the soul of his country free, is overwhelmed with yells of execration from all the Protestant journals: and one of the number, in a spirit that verifies the pictures of TACITUS, implores the protector of Popery to wear armour under his clothes for the preservation of a life so precious to humanity. Such is the religion of Exeter Hall! Such, alas! is the religion of England!

And yet the state of Rome, from what we hear of it, must be such as might move a generous nation to sympathy from better motives than hatred of the POPE. Men describe their friends as disappearing from around them, they know not for what offence, and hurried they know not whither; prisons gorged with victims; a saturnalia of that same cowardly, vindictive tyranny of priests and Jesuits which Mr. GLADSTONE denounced at Naples. Told by Mr. GLADSTONE'S eloquent pen, that tale moved English hearts for an hour, and then was thought of no more. Now, we presume, it would be treated as a "chimera of oppressed nationalities." All other interests of humanity, saving the persecution of Irish Catholics, are swallowed up in the desire of reducing the naval power of Russia in the Black Sea. We must mend this if we are to remain a great nation: we must mend it if we are to remain a nation.

A CONTRAST.

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON fairly vanquished NAPOLEON BONAPARTE in a war in which NAPOLEON was the aggressor; and he strictly respected the property and honour of the French nation. CANTILLON attempted to assassinate him. NAPOLEON left CANTILLON a legacy as a reward for the attempt, adding, "he had as much right to assassinate that oligarch as the British Government had to send me to St. Helena." LOUIS NAPOLEON BONAPARTE has paid the legacy to the assassin, and has thereupon been made a Knight of the Garter. What constitutes the difference between the virtuous act of CANTILLON and the appalling crime of PLANORI? It seems to be that PLANORI assailed one of those "existences" which are peculiarly patronised by Providence, if, indeed, the converse expression would not be more true. Piracy is permitted to those existences because they have a "mission" which is not to be thwarted by "miscreants (to use the happy phrase of the *Herald*) who fancy that they have a destiny." The end of that mission used to be to avenge Waterloo.

SERGEANT BRODIE.

THE disgraceful occurrence in the regiment of Inniskillings at Canterbury is a complicated affair, which it required the combination of many offenders to bring about. Certain officers of the regiment maltreated

Cornet BAUMGARTEN, inflicted upon him offensive personal jests, damaged his property, and, in short, behaved like "Mohawks and Hawkubites," and the sneaks that spoil horses in a jockey stable. Mr. BAUMGARTEN challenged one of the offenders to fight a duel, and the challenge was accepted. Sergeant BRODIE interfered to prevent the duel, strove to find soldiers who could place Mr. BAUMGARTEN under arrest, and appealed for aid to certain civilians who were in the neighbourhood. Adjutant WEBSTER came down with a guard, arrested Sergeant BRODIE, and desired the soldiers to knock him down with the butt-end of their carbines if he resisted. Here, then, were the original offenders breaking the peace, appropriating property which was not their own, and accepting a duel: they were guilty therefore of riot, trespass and conspiracy to murder. BAUMGARTEN challenged them, and conspired to murder. BRODIE resisted his superior officer, and appealed to civilians—a double breach of military discipline. WEBSTER conspired at the breach of the Horse Guards' regulations against duelling, and placed BRODIE under arrest for endeavouring to enforce those regulations. How will these entangled offences be treated?

There will of course be a court-martial, the disgraceful tricks will have to be investigated, and according to precedent, we may presume that Mr. EVANS and Mr. BAUMGARTEN, the original assailant and the man most aggrieved, will be turned out of the service. There is one chance for BAUMGARTEN. He did not, like PERRY, submit, but like the Amazonian maid-servant in the ballad, who is praised for "taking of her own part and firing off a gun," he showed that he could stand up for himself and fire a pistol against the duelling regulations. What will be done with WEBSTER we cannot guess. Probably he will be considered as only enforcing the plain duty of military discipline which lay straight before him: but why did he not arrest the duellists? The question how BRODIE will be treated has already come to a conclusion. He was arrested for "behaving disrespectfully," says Mr. PEEL, "to one of the officers of his regiment;" but "as he was trying to prevent a duel, that is considered a palliation of his offence;" so he is "released without any further notice of his disrespectful conduct." ALEXANDER SOMERVILLE defended his superior officers by riding badly, being short-necked, and "answering" for officers dislike answering as much as lady housekeepers dislike servants who "return their words." SOMERVILLE was goaded into mutiny, flogged, and turned out of the service. BRODIE is arrested for his "disrespectful conduct," which seems to have consisted in his being too much of a citizen and a Christian, and too conscientiously bent upon fulfilling the orders of the highest authorities. But what is the sentence pronounced upon the prisoner? He is discharged without reprimand!

"THE STRANGER" IN PARLIAMENT.

[The responsibility of the Editor in regard to these contributions is limited to the act of giving them publicity. The opinions expressed are those of the writer: both the *Leader* and "The Stranger" benefit by the freedom which is left to his pen and discretion.] It is not easy to decide whether, last night, Mr. Disraeli was more deferential, or Lord Palmerston was more insulting, in the conversation about those papers, promised to be laid on the table, which every one is clamouring for, and which, nevertheless, will tell little or nothing of what we want to know. It was with humility that Mr. Disraeli pressed for a little information: and it was in a half-ashamed way, at its own boldness, that the House of Commons hear-heard his appeal for a little fact. It was with hauteur that Lord Palmerston repudiated the idea

that the House of Commons of 1855 had a right to expect as much Ministerial civility as was extended to the House of Commons of 1796. Lord Palmerston, vociferous, mysterious, and bullying, put Mr. Disraeli down; and so ended the national efforts of this week to find out what the nation is being done with by "the Oligarchy." Yet, though Mr. Disraeli was put down, we did get at some sort of fact:—that that "real Englishman," Lord Palmerston, has still some hopes that by the blessing of Providence we may yet succeed in obtaining a dishonourable peace.

When Mr. Canning was asked, during his Premiership time, why he did not "put up" that handsome Irish Peer sitting beside him who had such a tremendous social reputation for dash and wit—"Put up Palmerston," replied Canning,—"Good God, put up a big voice!" The young big voice is now an old big voice, and still nothing else. This is rather the big voice Ministry: and Palmerston is carrying on merely by force of lungs, roaring down clamour. Any one in or about the lobbies of the House at about half-past six to seven last Monday night would have been greatly struck by a loud and long-sustained solitary yell, given forth from the neighbourhood of the Speaker's chair. Rushing up-stairs to ascertain the cause of this, one was further struck by a succession of sounds, seemingly proceeding from a sledge-hammer smashing the table, and so accompanying the yell, in hideous cadence. One got in. An easy, buzzy, careless, waiting-for-dinner, full House: and Palmerston, not listened to, roaring, at the very top of his miraculously capacious and Irish lungs, roaring till he was red in the face, till he had to stumble on to the tops of his toes to get out the higher notes, and pitching into the green box, with both fists, as if he had got his "noble friend" Lord John comfortably into a private chan-cery. The subject was the new 1,000,000. A year sinking fund: a plain, matter-of-fact subject: no earnestness about it: merely a make-believe division impending:—and Lord Palmerston, knowing nothing whatever about it, and only having caught the clap-trap commonplaces he was now shrieking as the discussion had gone on. It was ludicrous; and, as violence is a good test of weakness, the actual position of the Government, as well as the real character of Lord Palmerston, were thus excellently illustrated. Altogether the Government does not succeed in appearances. The sight of the Ministry in the House of Lords on Thursday night was painful and grotesque. Lord Panmure, a beflannelled d Mars, had been hobbled out to talk his chalky sentences of twaddle about what he was doing, and going to do, with the army, only speaking for ten minutes, and yet having managed to say silliness enough to suggest a national howl if the Speaker were not a Peer—as, for instance, in arguing that it wasn't right to prefer tried officers from India to unt-ried officers from Pall-Mall, for how could we know, that if the men from Pall-Mall were tried, they wouldn't turn out as well as the men from India?—a sound senility which all the Whigs cheered. Then came Lord Clarendon; the feeble eyes, and irresolute mouth, very anxious, very abashed, very worn out; and the voice to match—most refined, most gentlemanly, and most mindless. He had something to say: steadying into seats: great attention. He understood that the other evening Lord Derby had asked a question about the Vienna negotiations, and the noble lord was angry that he (Clarendon) had not been in his place to answer it. Now, he was very sorry—very. The fact was that he happened to have had a good deal of work to do at the office, and he had just stepped over, and had a cigar over a protocol or two, having calculated that if anybody asked any question his noble friend (Lansdowne) would have given any answer they pleased. Only think of a Minister dealing this way with a House of Parliament; and yet (saving the suppression of the fact about the tobacco) that is literally what Lord Clarendon said. Then he went on, now to answer Lord Derby's question. This was the position of matters. Lord John had gone to Vienna and had come back. While Lord John was there, France, England, Austria, and Turkey, had made certain propositions, which Russia had rejected; and then the Conferences were broken up, and Lord John came home; but nevertheless the Conferences were going on, Russia having made new propositions, and Austria having made new propositions, so that there was as much negotiation as ever: and he

hoped all would come well. Meanwhile the protocols, &c., would be laid on the table: they would refer to the negotiations up to the moment of Lord John leaving Vienna, and they would of course tell a good deal; but as to the negotiations since, at present, or now in prospect, he had nothing to say—sense of public duty, &c. Then came an analysis, at the instance of Lord Malmesbury, of what England and France had proffered—Lord Clarendon having consequently to confess that our Peace offered would be after all but a sham Peace and a disgraceful Peace, and amounting on the part to a confession that we had failed in the Crimea. It was a silly Ministerial position defined by a feeble-minded man: the facts outrage the common sense of the country; the position is one no rational ordinary Englishman would consent to share. But Lord Clarendon, though nervous and rather afraid of Lord Derby, was complacent: and the Peers were not much shocked. To be sure Lord Derby spoke out, with singular boldness and precision, to express personally his disgust, disappointment, and contempt; and his clear, ringing tones spoke for once, I think, the popular voice. Even he, however, did not look from the right point of view at the humorous antics of these amazing Whig Ministers:—nobody was properly hilarious when Lord Lansdowne, to conclude the discussion, was helped on his legs by Lord Panmure, and in a shaky sort of coughy whisper assured their Lordships that the continuance of negotiations (and he didn't agree with Lord Derby that the negotiations were affectations) would not prevent the Government carrying on the war with vigour—vigour, my lords; and, as he came to the word "vigour," you would have thought that the old gentleman was at his last gasp. Not that these absurdities, of presence and talk, are confined to the Peers. It is grand to hear Sir C. Wood, now actually the second acting Minister on the Commons Treasury bench, putting a couple of hundred w's into his evening sentence about the telegraphic message from Balaklava. Nobody can understand, everybody laughs at him; and it is all very well to say that the House disgraces itself by grinning on the subject of the war, but who could help laughing at that ridiculous Wood—and his frightened but still conceited incapacity whenever he is asked a question? The whole of that Treasury Bench looks a sham. From Vernon Smith, who sits sedately ornamental, in yellow gloves, never speaking, never spoken to, and James Wilson, who, plebeian, acute, and busy, is obviously uncomfortable among all those brainless nobles, to Sir Robert Peel, who keeps at a respectable distance from his brother Frederick, and who, having nothing whatever to occupy him, and being ashamed, in his new dignity, to go to the smoking-room like a man, hems and brandishes his stick every ten minutes,—the whole thing appears horribly unlikely to last. There is no air of business about it:—even Frederick Peel, who is always up to meet questions of which he knows nothing, cannot believe that a government is being carried on. As to Palmerston himself, he leaves Louis Napoleon to carry on the war, and Prince Albert to carry on Diplomacy, and when he hasn't to roar he goes to sleep. Of course he knows that Lord John is intriguing again, and perhaps leaves the countermining to Lady Palmerston. He probably feels that a man who can roar as he can, cannot be dispensed with if there is to be any real national movement against this exhausted aristocracy—that bold, reckless, big-voiced man, such as he is, must be preferred in a revolutionary age to small pedants of the Russell genus. Or, it may be, he is all this while playing the popular game in making the English aristocracy more hated and more despised than they have ever yet been. Or, most probable of all suppositions, Lord Palmerston is now doing what he has always been doing—amusing himself, without the least apprehension or care of the to-morrow.

The absurd Ministry—carrying on negotiations which nobody believes in—sieves which they fore-know they must raise—with no appreciation of the temper of the country, with no preparation for the future of the war—is, nevertheless, not altogether unworthy of the House of Commons. A middle-class conviction growing up that the aristocracy might be done without is accompanied by a popular conviction that Parliament could be dispensed with. The House of Commons is at present a most disorganised crowd; obtaining no policy from without, having no men within its own body to lead it with confidence, and getting no sort of information from the Government which has no information to give, Hon. gentlemen, very earnest in their complaints, sick of Palmerston, suspicious of Disraeli, contemptuous of Lord John, allow themselves to drift, and appear to expect, without having the energy to avert, a grand catastrophe of political chaos at home, and national humiliation abroad.

They collect down in Westminster from four to six; it is the right place, at that hour, to see people, to hear news, to tease Charles Wood about the telegraph, and, generally, to amuse themselves. They return about

twelve, again having nothing else to do elsewhere, and being sure of some sort of amusement again: there being either a row between Irish members—as on Thursday night, when Keogh and Whiteside were reciprocating suggestions to the effect that they were both qualified for the treadmill,—or there being a division, and it still is desirable, per division-list, to keep one's name before the public. But a week of the House of Commons now is just as resultless on human affairs as a week of the Coger's Hall—the institution of the Parliament is suspended. Take the dismal incidents of this week. Spooner, on Tuesday, engaged in arguing that the Roman Catholic religion was a bad religion. Lord Robert Grosvenor, on Thursday, for a long time, occupied in showing that the back street shops ought to be shut on Sunday. And on Wednesday, the once precious six hours allotted to the two solidly most stupid men in England—Pakington and Henley—in quarrelling as to the best method of educating the people. A nation, whose senate is thus employed, by such drivellers, cannot hope to win in a great war; its intellect must have died out. Abuse the human race to the lowest point of physical incompleteness and mental decrepitude, and you could not produce a more perfect barbaric being of funny fanaticism than Mr. Spooner. Lord Robert Grosvenor is supremely the most accomplished unindividuality of the period. Sir John Pakington and Mr. Henley are kindred specimens of that melancholy race of priggish narrow-mindedness—the country Justices of an English province; they are men whose opinion no one would take on anything but cases of affiliation and Mangold-wurzel; they are men whom even this degraded and dull House of Commons declines to listen to, though both of them, victorious in days of congenial mediocrity, when the Big Voice that Canning kept down is by seniority, uppermost, have obtained first-class party places. If Representative Government exposes a people to the humiliation of such personages presuming to the attitudes of statesmen, who wouldn't vote for getting rid of Representative Government? The very worst of the matter is that nobody is astonished or shocked. On Tuesday, Maynooth on, the Peers' galleries were crammed with white-necked creatures, of red faces and receding foreheads, from the country towns: the crack bigots of the provincial pulpits: and an evening was sacrificed in order that the M.P. pets of those disastrous shepherds might blate their rampant idiotcies. Spooner we are used to: by practice, we can stand Spooner. But think of an orator turning up from the church of Hugh McNeile, in the person of Mr. Horsfall, of Liverpool, who, dropping his H's as if the letter were a papal one, and mispronouncing with Protestant fervour, inflicted upon us a long abstract argument that Popery ought to be put down. The honourable gentleman is a very worthy gentleman, and really, apart from his provincialisms, speaks very well, and greatly pleased, and was greatly applauded by, his party, among whom, even as an orator, he is superior. But is it because the English people are defeated in war by their aristocracy and the Russians that they are to undergo these Parliamentary presentations of the parochial insanity, thus represented, and thus attempting to convert the House of Commons into a country council-chamber? The House of Commons thinks it is bound to submit to cant. At least two-thirds of the House of Commons, like two-thirds of the English nation, are utterly heterodox, and, as "men of the world," know that Popery and Protestantism are tolerably equal absurdities, in their organised ecclesiastical condition: and it is difficult to say which the average M.P. has most horror of—Spooner, on one side, or Bowyer, of the Roman party. But he feels himself bound to be grave, when Maynooth is on: and accordingly Spooner has his fling. So with Education. The House of Commons doesn't believe in education; and the discussion about Education Bills is so unreal, that not even the Bowyer thinks it necessary to get up and say—"How is it, if your reformed religion has, during two centuries, left your people the most ignorant, ruffian, drunken, and criminal in Europe—as you all confess—you are so sensitive about the couple of hundred stupid young priests in Maynooth?" It's one of the Parliamentary conventionalities to affect a faith in Education measures, particularly if they propose the daily reading of that Bible which honourable members don't even read on Sundays, and therefore no one openly laughs when Henley, in a couple of hours' argumentation, demonstrates that his conscience compels him to think that Pakington is not a sage. So, with Sunday trading. We have had that subject for years, and no one is honest enough to destroy the cant on the spot. A bill to abolish Sunday trading has now passed a second reading: the House is going to respect the injunction that "thou shalt do no work on the Sabbath-day;" and on the 6th of this May honourable gentlemen will discuss the probable fate of the measure over their elaborate entrées and exquisite coffee.

"A STRANGER."

Saturday Morning.

Literature.

Critics are not the legislators, but the judges and police of literature. They do not make laws—they interpret and try to enforce them.—*Edinburgh Review*.

There is something quite peculiar in the tenacity of life which a good downright, outspoken absurdity exhibits; no error lives longer than a palpable error if it live at all, if it survive the first rush of contradiction. Let it once attain its footing in the world, and its immortality is sacred. On several occasions we have amused ourselves, and let us hope our readers also a little, by selecting some vigorous absurdity for dissection; and this week we propose to notice one more, led thereto by the curious introduction of the error in an article which *Fraser* this month devotes to HENRY LAWES, the musician, and friend of MILTON.

We believe CICERO was the first to say "*Exceptio probat regulam*—the exception proves the rule." No matter to whose paternity the aphorism be traced, everyone is familiar with the terrible iteration of "no rule without an exception"—or, "it is an exception which proves the rule." These phrases insult us even on grave pages. Not a week ago we met with the absurdity in a scientific work, used as a valid argument. Now although it is perfectly unnecessary to inform our readers that no rule can have an exception, in the strict logical sense, and that the notion of an exception proving a rule is a notion of the most confused logic, yet it may not be wholly superfluous to add that the phrase originally meant nothing of the kind, but meant a very good, sensible meaning, viz., that the very existence of what was signalled as an exception proved that there was a rule; if there was no rule at all there could be no exception; just as there would be no vices if there were no rule of morality, no crimes if there were no Police. But when argumentative gentlemen dispose of an objection by saying "Ah! that is one of the exceptions which prove the rule," they talk sheer nonsense.

In the very interesting article which led to this remark, the writer, whose initials J. H. will betray him to all lovers of music, truly observes:—

Every musician, whose opportunities and tastes have led him into the realms of general literature, will have been struck—not once or twice, but a thousand times—by the loose way in which musical terms are used by some of our best writers, and the almost universal inaccuracy of their language in reference to the musical art. The closer students in every subject have, of course, much cause for complaint of a similar kind: the natural philosopher, the mathematician, or the painter, can never want opportunity of ascertaining how wildly natural philosophy, mathematics, or pictures may be talked about. But it is difficult to believe that the same quantity of unadulterated nonsense could be collected from the writings of English authors about anything as about music: for the simple reason, that it is one of the two or three subjects (theology is another) of which the average Englishman takes what he calls a "plain, common-sense, view," and on which he thinks himself entitled, not only to have, but to express, an opinion whenever he thinks proper; a frame of mind which implies not so much absolute ignorance of a subject, as of the fact that there is anything to be learnt in respect to it.

This quiet unconsciousness of the very existence of principles in general science, and this audacious misuse of its technology, are confined for the most part to writers of lesser note and inferior calibre; but to a collection of musical errata, very great names would appear in the list of contributors.

This is happily said, and was worth saying; although in the illustrations he brings forward there is one which does not appear to us strictly apposite: he objects to the frequent use of the phrase "harmonious voice" as the "confusion of a combination with a succession of musical sounds;" but "harmonious" in English has come to mean more than that, and when applied to a voice, is used as signifying a voice which, instead of jarring on our sensations, excites them agreeably. Waiving this point, however, and conceding all that the writer says about the unscientific use of terms popular even among grave writers, we pass onwards a few sentences, and find him committing the very same error with respect to another science. After alluding to the offending writers audacious in their misuse of terms, he comes to MILTON, adding:—"The exception proves the rule; the more splendid the exception the more complete the proof." J. H., among his many accomplishments, may be content to err (in company with illustrious writers) on a point of Logic; nor should we have noticed so venial an error had it not followed close upon the exposure of similar errors made by unscientific writers treating of music.

This article on HENRY LAWES, which might have been longer with advantage, and told us more about the music of MILTON's neglected friend, is one of great interest, not only as calling the attention of musical amateurs to a composer whose acquaintance is well worth cultivating, but also as incidentally conveying some piquant bits of information. Among these there is allusion to

Dr. Benjamin Rogers, who deserves especial mention as the Tory, *par excellence*, of musical history—the Eldon of harmonists. Born as late as 1620, this worthy continued to make "false relations," and

—to scan

With Midas' ears, committing short and long, through regnum and interregnum, till the accession of the house of Hanover, and, for all we can say, the advent of Handel; having seen the births, lives, and deaths of Humphrey, Wise, Blow, and Purcell.

Next in interest, and only next because its subject is more familiar, is the article on "Periwinkles in Pound," which no reader must pass over. It is on "Vivariums," how to make them, to keep them, and to enjoy them. The

Vivarium is the one new thing under the sun; the one novelty *Salmagundi* had never seen, dreamt of, heard of. Our pleasant Naturalist, to whose light style and erudite pleasantry *Fraser* has so often been indebted, there discusses the propriety of the name Vivarium:—

By what name these crystal palaces should be designated is of little importance; "a rose by any other name"—and so of a vivarium; but as, nevertheless, nobody thinks of giving any other name to a rose than its own, we venture to suggest that "vivarium" is, after all, the very best name for a "vivarium." It is better than a new name, because, in the first place, the word is made to our hands, and has classical authority to back its pretensions, which "aquarium" and "aqua-vivarium," its proposed substitutes, have not. The ancient vivarium was a place where live animals were kept. It was chiefly applied to fish-ponds and parks, and thus very nearly corresponds with our word "preserve." Etymologically, it might perhaps extend to a poultry yard, an aviary, a decoy, a sty, or a coop (most of which had further their own distinct name); but in its commonest acceptance it signified, as we have just said, a stew for fish, or an enclosure for game. In place of this word it has been proposed (in order, it is alleged, to give greater precision to the modern contrivance which is exclusively applied to water live stock) to adopt a new word—"aquarium." We forbear to do so, not only because the word is wholly without authority, but because it is anything but explicit. The nearest approach to it we know is *Aquarius*, the name of the man who holds the water-pot, and if there were such a derivation as *aquarium* from it (which there is not), that should be by rights the water-pot he holds. We throw away "aquarium," therefore, and though it may etymologically hold water—it does not etymologically hold stock.

The following account of the balance of animal and plant life, which regulates the stocking of a vivarium, is too interesting to be omitted, although we have an objection to make to one passage:

The rationale of the contrivance may be given in few words:—The animals yield, in a combined form from their system, carbon (which is the pabulum of vegetable life), while the weeds of the water support reciprocally the animals, by affording the necessary supplies of oxygen. Such a statement, however, of the balance of animal and vegetable life must not be misunderstood as implying that vegetables any more than animals can exist without oxygen. The respiration of the whole organic world is the same. Plants, as much as animals, pant for this vital air, and deprived of it, perish speedily. Dr. Daubeny found, on plunging several kinds into vessels filled with carbonic acid gas, that the vital functions were presently disordered (as happens under similar circumstances to animals), and that when the exposure was sufficiently prolonged, they all died in consequence. Every member of Flora's domain (on land the lofty timber tree and the lichen that encrusts its rind; in water the floating duck-weed and the fucus, out of the reach of the plummet line at the bottom of the ocean) equally absorbs oxygen; and therefore if matters stopped here, it is clear that the introduction of weeds into either the same atmosphere or water with animals, must prove highly detrimental to the latter by accelerating the consumption of the limited supply of oxygen. But the above is only a partial statement of facts. Another function in the economy of plants (on the due performance of which the preservation of the animals confined with them in the aquarium depends) is digestion. This process is just as essential to repair the losses, and to promote the growth of plants as it is to the sustentation of animals. In the latter, both functions may be considered as going on persistently, as they might possibly be in plants if the necessary conditions for their performance were at all times present. But this is not the case with one of them; the function of digestion absolutely requires for its maintenance the intervention of the solar rays, for which no other light will serve as a substitute, and thus is necessarily suspended during the night. Notwithstanding, however, this fitfulness in operation, the process itself is so energetic whilst in action, that the quantity of oxygen set free by the decomposition of the carbonic acid, during even a moderately bright day, is vastly greater in amount than that which, during the whole twenty-four hours of alternate light and shade, is being continuously taken in through the respiratory surfaces. Thus while one part of the organisation of the plants contained in a vivarium is appropriating uninterruptedly a small amount of oxygen, and giving out a much larger supply (the whole of which surplus goes directly to oxygenate the animals in the vicinity); these reciprocally, by the constant exhalation of carbonic acid gas bestowed upon the plants the carbon necessary for their support and growth; and as long as either thus furnishes to the other the requisite supplies, the circulating fluid in the animals continues vitalised and purified, and the plants thrive and grow.

The objection we must raise is to the extremely loose phraseology which the writer allows himself when speaking of the function of digestion in plants. He is too good a physiologist to believe in anything of the kind; but even in popular writing, scientific ideas ought not to be thus confounded, especially when there are already too many scientific men constantly falling into the error of supposing a function can exist without an apparatus, and to confound Nutrition (which is one of the elementary properties of tissue) with Digestion, which is a function dependent on a specific apparatus of organs.

We cannot resist the following little picture:

Here taking leave of marine zoology we shall conclude with a few words on fresh-water fish. With these last, our cat seems as much pleased as ourselves; go at any time of the day and there she is, now lying to watch from below the movements of the slow carp within an inch of her excited whiskers, and now having made a long series of interesting observations from that position, creeping up by a side ledge, purring with delight to put her round head and erect ears in nearer contiguity with the gliding fish; more discreet however in her admiration than man, she never forgets that cold water is not her element, and so when to get at the object of her desire is a temptation likely to prove too strong, she calmly turns round and sits down to reflect a little, and not till she feels confidence in her powers of self-control ventures to indulge in another peep.

Fraser is so very entertaining this month that we could "exhaust our space and then imagine more" without coming to a conclusion. As this, however, may be objectionable, we will briefly refer to its articles on "Servian Proverbs," "Paris in Little," and "The Regimental System," as articles worthy to be read in club or drawing-room, and pass on to *Blackwood*, varied, but less interesting than usual—at least to us, who can find little amusement in such papers as those on the "Poetry of the War," and on "Modern Novelists—Great and Small," in which Mrs. GORE, Mrs. TROLLOPE, Mrs. MARSH, Mrs. GASKELL, Miss JEWELL, and the anonymous authoress of the *House of Rahy* (who will assuredly have to atone herself ere long), KINGSLEY, NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE, LEVER, WILKIE COLLINS, and

CHARLES READE, are "dashed off" (as the phrase runs) in sketches sometimes good, and sometimes quite random. The article on "The Length of Human Life" is an analysis of a very trumpety book by FLOURENS, which has excited attention in Paris (not among scientific men) by its attempt to prove that every man ought to live a century, and that only in his eighty-fifth year does he properly enter upon old age. The only good passage in FLOURENS is given by the writer. BUFFON had investigated the subject and came to this conclusion:—

"The total duration of life may be estimated to a certain degree by that of the duration of an animal's growth. . . . Man increases in height up to his sixteenth or eighteenth year, and yet the full development in size of all the parts of his body is not completed till the thirtieth year. The dog attains its full length in one year, and only in the second year completes its growth in bulk or size. Man, who takes thirty years to grow, lives ninety or a hundred years. The dog, which grows only during two or three years, lives only ten or twelve; and it is the same with most other animals."

This passage contains the germ of an idea which he afterwards develops more clearly. "The duration of life in the horse," he says, "as in all other species of animals, is proportionate to the length of time during which it grows. Man, who takes fourteen years to grow, may live six or seven times as long; that is, to ninety or a hundred years. The horse, which completes its growth in four years, may live six or seven times as long; that is, to twenty or thirty years."

And again, "as the stag is five or six years in growing, it lives also seven times five or six; that is, to thirty-five or forty years."

FLOURENS strikes in at this point:—

"I find," he says, "the true sign of the term of animal growth in the reunion of the bones to their epiphyses. So long as this union does not take place, the animal grows. As soon as the bones are united to their epiphyses, the animal ceases to grow."

In man, this reunion takes place at the age of twenty years, and he lives to ninety or a hundred. The following table contains the other data given by M. FLOURENS:—

Man grows for 20 years, and lives 90 or 100	
The camel, 8	40
The horse, 5	25
The ox, 4	15 to 20
The lion, 4	20
The dog, 2	10 to 12
The cat, 1½	9 or 10
The hare, 1	8
The guinea-pig, 7 months,	6 or 7

By these data the result of Buffon is corrected. All the larger animals live about six times longer than they grow, instead of six or seven times, as inferred by Buffon. Thus, by a physiological analogy, the ordinary natural life of a man is fixed at a hundred years.

Before concluding, let the writer be informed that the notion of a definite quantity of life on our globe, and even the notion of "organic molecules" which hypothetically supports it, are not to be dismissed so summarily, "as inconsistent with our positive knowledge." Very positive thinkers, MM. ROBIN and VERDEIL, for example, adopt a modification of BUFFON's theory, and of his hypothetical molecules. If the writer of the article turn to their *Chimie Anatomique* he will see reason to pause ere he again classes BUFFON's notion among "vain fancies."

What shall be said to the writer on "Coal" in the *Dublin University Magazine* (a place where one meets trash with some astonishment), who gravely undertakes to show that coal not only proves the existence "of a God of Providence, but even of a God of Redemption." In the same Magazine there is a continuation of the biographical sketches "The Dramatic Writers of Ireland," and a sketch of "The Life and Writings of Hans Christian Andersen."

Tait has a pleasant satirical paper on "Genteel Thieves," purporting to be written by an old shopkeeper; and Bentley has an article on "Hazlitt." With this we must close our Magazinic survey.

A Central Committee of the Institute of France held a special meeting on Tuesday last, to draw up a protest against the Imperial decree, which degrades that illustrious *Corps savant* to the condition of a dependency of the Ministry of Public Instruction. The protest formally declares the decree to be *inexecutable, et attentatoire aux privilèges de l'Institut*. It is not the adjunction of a fifth section of non-elected creatures of the Government that constitutes the gravest objection to the decree, it is the masked attack of a jealous and stealthy despotism, which throws a network of quasi-legislative enactments and of irresponsible decrees over all that remains of right and freedom. According to this decree,

1. The Government, and not the Institute, proposes the subjects for prizes.
2. The Government, and not the Institute, regulates the admissions to the public sciences.
3. The Government nominates the employés of the Institute.
4. The Government composes one-half of the commissions charged with awarding prizes in the name of the Institute.
5. In short, the Institute becomes a simple appendage to the Ministry of Public Instruction, and loses its distinctive character, its individual existence (*sa vie propre*), its liberty, its dignity.

The consequences of this invasion are so patent, that even men like MM. CHARLES THIÉRY and DUPIN are constrained to vote with their colleagues. Only one has been found to approve the decree, and his name deserves to be recorded—AMÉDÉE THIÉRY. MM. THIÉRY, GUIZOT, and COUSIN, lead the opposition; and though it has been apprehended that the Government

may deem it prudent to propose some compromise, it is to be hoped that the resistance, which has far greater importance than some of our readers may be inclined to suppose, will be rigorously sustained.

At the introduction of the new Academicians, *par brevet*, the other day, there were five members of the Institute present, who did not even raise their eyes upon the interlopers. It is worth adding that M. FORTOUT, Minister of Public Instruction, and author of the decree, is known as one of the sorriest of political renegades. At the beginning of his public career, he disgraced republican opinions by his violence and exaggeration, but his chief notoriety was that of a *farceur*. He it was who, after writing a conclusive article in an architectural review, in favour of preserving the Pantheon, signed it away to the Jesuits by his first decree after the *coup d'état*. His faith in the Empire may be judged from the remark he once made upon his own hopeful child, *Ah! il verra passer bien des gouvernements!*

A most remarkable series of Illustrations has just been commenced, a monograph of the "Ferns of Great Britain."* It is a truly unique work, comprising in itself two kinds of novelty; it is printed after the process called Nature-printing, which has been carried out in the Imperial Press of Vienna. The nature of the process is not explained, but it consists in some way of taking the impress of the plants themselves so that they appear to constitute a kind of model of the plant compressed upon paper. In this way, although the process fails to catch some of the minutest characteristics, it forms an exact transcript of the leaves, their shape, the veins, indentations, &c., by which the botanist immediately recognises the plant in all its delicate varieties. The act of compression, indeed, necessarily alters the aspect of the original, and gives a certain heaviness and roundness; yet the exactness exceeds anything that ordinary painters, even of a skilful grade, can accomplish. It cannot be said to approach to such living exactness as WILLIAM HUNT, but it would of course be impossible for a HUNT to be engaged in elaborating every specimen in this really wonderful collection of a numerous and obscure that particularly requires the most patient family fidelity of transcription.

LYELL'S GEOLOGY.

A Manual of Elementary Geology; or, Changes of the Ancient Earth and its Inhabitants as Illustrated by Geological Monuments. By Sir Charles Lyell. Fifth Edition, greatly enlarged. Murray.

This is a very valuable work—a new work more than a new edition—for Sir Charles Lyell is not only the most eminent of our geologists, he is one of the best and most conscientious of writers on his science. He is not content with his laurels. He is not to be seduced into trading upon his reputation. But as each successive edition of his work is called for by the public he sets earnestly to the task of making that work the accurate representative of the present state of science. Our differences with Sir Charles on speculative points do not prevent our hearty acknowledgment of his value, and of the superiority of his works. Therefore, while we see the money of the public tempted by so many works professing to be popular, and being for the most part superficial compilations, we cannot resist an emphatic appeal in favour of works like those of Sir Charles, which are popular in every sense of the term, which are as intelligible to beginners as the most exacting ignorance can demand, and are at the same time thoroughly scientific, and claim the attention of professors. The purchaser of this *Manual* will pay little more for it than he would pay for trash—scarcely so much considering its bulk and its seven hundred and fifty illustrations—and he will have the satisfaction of giving his money for money's worth.

In running through this fifth edition, enriched as it is with a hundred and forty pages of text entirely new, not to mention minor corrections and additions, and with two hundred new illustrations, one cannot help being struck with the enormous accumulation of accurate observation which was necessary before any one chapter could have been written. Think of what it is to read the pages of the great Stone Book; to decipher its mysterious alphabet, and by the aid of such penetration into the laws of nature as we have already attained, to read the history of our planet millions of years before History (in the ordinary sense) had even a beginning. Geology is to our planet what History is to our race. To decipher its simplest phenomena we need the most accurate knowledge of the mechanical, chemical, and biological processes now in action: for it is only by mechanics, chemistry, and biology that we can gain any clue through this labyrinth. If, therefore, we consider what an amount of observation and thought has been requisite to establish the principles of these sciences, and then reflect on the labour of applying them to Geology, we approximate to a conception of the vastness of the achievement. For, observe, this Stone Book is in every sense written in a dead language. We have only surmounted the first difficulty in recognising the fact that its alphabet is the alphabet of mechanical, chemical, and biological laws. When a problem is before us such as the formation of a rock, the appearance of a "dip" or a "fault," the formation of valleys, or anything else we need to have explained, it is not enough to settle how it might have occurred, we must settle how it did occur. The mechanical action of running water—the action of volcanic eruption—the action of chemical combination—although shown, by what occurs in our time, to be a probable cause, is not enough. Philosophy demands more than probability. The operations of mechanical and chemical laws, however demonstrable, may have to be ranged under a higher law—they may be regarded as the mere accessories of development, instead of the simple and direct agencies.

To illustrate what we mean it is necessary to refer to some modern speculations which—especially in Germany—tend to give a new aspect to Geology. Theodore Schaller, for example, has recently published the first part

* *The Ferns of Great Britain. (Nature-Printed.)* With Descriptions by Thomas Moore, F.L.S. Edited by Dr. Lindley. Bradbury and Evans.

of an elaborate work on *Embryologische Geologie*, in which he undertakes to show that not only is this planet of ours an organism of which geology is the embryogeny, but that this organism has a history in all essential respects analogous with the history of the development of an animal organism. The globe is an egg on a gigantic scale; what the microscopist reveals respecting the gradual evolution of an organism from a simple cell, the geologist reveals, on a grander scale, respecting the evolution of animal life on the crust of the earth. In both egg and planet we have first a globular mass of fluid undergoing a successive series of differentiations, which result in the form of a germinal membrane on the surface of the egg, and in the form of a solid crust on the surface of the globe. This membrane is subsequently differentiated into three layers, this crust is differentiated into three "formations;" upon this membrane and out of these layers the embryo is developed, and out of this crust the animal and vegetable kingdoms arise.

We cannot enter further into the details of a theory which will be regarded by many as a merely ingenious exercise of fancy. The point to which we desire attention is this: If the planet be regarded as an organism in the course of development, and if Life be regarded as inseparable from the planet—as the evolution from an egg—not only are all our views altered with respect to the old problems of the successive appearance of animal life upon the crust of the earth, but geology itself becomes a part of biology, and the operation of mechanical and chemical laws becomes as accessory in it as in biology, i. e., constant, necessary, but modified by biological laws. Instead of supposing that the earth crust was formed, and then vegetables and animals were formed fitted to live on it, this theory declares that the earth crust and the organic being are one; the organism is developed from the crust as the embryo is from the germinal membrane. And, indeed, when we think of the many rocks which are now proved to be composed of the remains of millions of organic beings—when we think of the admitted fact that not only tripoli (a siliceous stone) is composed of infusoria or microscopic plants, but that "these discoveries lead us naturally," to use Lyell's words, "to suspect that other deposits, of which the materials have been supposed to be inorganic, may in reality have been derived from organic bodies," the conclusion is no longer so startling of an identification of the earth crust and the earth inhabitants. Byron exclaimed,

The dust we tread upon was once alive,

and in allusion to it Lyell says, "How faint an idea does this exclamation of the poet convey of the real wonders of nature! for here we discover proofs that the calcareous and siliceous dust of which hills are composed has not only been once alive, but almost every particle, albeit invisible to the naked eye, still retains the organic structure which, at periods of time incalculably remote, was impressed upon it by the powers of life."

The reader sees at once what a new aspect is given to geology by considering it as the embryogeny of our planet, and how all the changes, all the formations which the geologist notes, come to be regarded as subservient to the evolution of Life. But we dare not pursue the subject. Our purpose was to call attention to a very valuable book, and we have been led into a digression. To those fond of speculation Sir Charles Lyell's works are useful for the clear exposition of the facts on which speculation must rest; and to those who desire the facts, without being troubled with speculation, no better guide could be recommended.

ISRAEL POTTER.

Israel Potter: His Fifty Years of Exile. By Herman Melville.

Routledge.

This is a curiously unequal book. The subject—the adventures of a Yankee prisoner in England at the time of the American War—is an admirable one; and the treatment, for a little more than the first half of the volume, shows such vigour, freshness, and artist-like skill, that as we read on to the Fourteenth Chapter, we felt disposed to rank *Israel Potter* as incomparably the best work that Mr. Melville had yet written. The characters introduced—including, besides minor celebrities, George the Third and Doctor Franklin—were conceived and developed with such genuine dramatic feeling; the incidents were all so striking, and many of them so original; and the style, bating an occasional Americanism, was so hearty and graphic that it was quite refreshing to read the book, after the trash we have had to examine lately, in the vain hope of discovering something worthy to be recommended to our readers. After the Fourteenth Chapter, however, we were sadly disappointed to find that the work began to decline steadily in literary merit, and, excepting one or two detached scenes, to grow duller and duller the nearer it got to the end. The main causes of this curious falling off we found to be obvious enough. In the first place, the least successful character in the biographical story—Paul Jones—is the character which is most fully developed in the latter portions of it. In the second place, Mr. Melville follows his hero's fortunes, from the time of his being taken prisoner by the English, with great minuteness in the beginning and middle of the book, and then suddenly generalises towards the end for the sake of getting to the death of "Israel Potter," without exceeding the compass of one small volume. This is a fatal mistake in Art. An author who ceases to be general and becomes particular, is certain of exciting his readers' interest. But an author who ceases to be particular and becomes general, in all cases where the drawing of human character is in question, is sure to lose his hold of the reader in the most disastrous manner. Mr. Melville may urge truly enough, that in writing of "Fifty Years of Exile" in a man's life, it was absolutely necessary for him to generalise somewhere. We have only to answer that he had better have generalised anywhere rather than in the latter portions of the story. If he had left his hero's life in London and death in America for another volume, and if he had drawn his pen through at least half the sea-scenes in which Paul Jones figures, he would have given us, not only his best book, but the best book that any American author has written for a long time past. As it is, *Israel Potter* is the work of an original thinker and vigorous writer, damaged by want of constructive ability—or, in plainer and shorter words, by want of Art.

Defective, however, as it may be, we can honestly recommend our readers to buy this book, if only for the sake of reading the interesting and power-

fully-written chapters which describe the American prisoner's early career in England—and especially that particular chapter which narrates his interview with Doctor Franklin. We should feel tempted to extract some part of this latter passage in the story if we had space enough to do the author justice. The scene between "Israel" and George the Third is shorter, and we can, therefore, give it at full length, first explaining that the Yankee has escaped from the English soldiers, has met with a kind friend, and has got into snug quarters as one of the assistants in the Royal Gardens at Kew. Here is the interview that follows between

THE REBEL AND THE KING.

As he was one day travelling a little by-walk, wrapped in thought, the king turning a clump of bushes, suddenly brushed Israel's person.

Immediately Israel touched his hat—but did not remove it—bowed, and was retiring; when something in his air arrested the king's attention.

"You ain't an Englishman—no Englishman—no, no."

Pale as death, Israel tried to answer something; but, knowing not what to say, stood frozen to the ground.

"You are a Yankee—a Yankee," said the king again in his rapid and half-stammering way.

Again Israel essayed to reply, but could not. What could he say? Could he lie to a king?

"Yes, yes—you are one of that stubborn race—that very stubborn race. What brought you here?"

"The fate of war, sir."

"May it please your majesty," said a low cringing voice, approaching, "this man is in the walk against orders. There is some mistake, may it please your majesty. Quit the walk, blockhead," he hissed at Israel.

It was one of the junior gardeners who thus spoke. It seems that Israel had mistaken his directions that morning.

"Slink, you dog," hissed the gardener again to Israel; then aloud to the king, "A mistake of the man, I assure your majesty."

"Go you away—away with ye, and leave him with me," said the king.

Waiting a moment till the man was out of hearing, the king again turned upon Israel.

"Were you at Bunker Hill?—that bloody Bunker Hill—eh, eh?"

"Yes, sir."

"Fought like a devil—like a very devil, I suppose?"

"Yes, sir."

"Helped flog—helped flog my soldiers?"

"Yes, sir; but very sorry to do it."

"Eh?—eh?—how's that?"

"I took it to be my sad duty, sir."

"Very much mistaken—very much mistaken, indeed. Why do you sir me?—eh? I'm your king—your king."

"Sir," said Israel firmly, but with deep respect, "I have no king."

"The king darted his eye intensely for a moment; but without quailing, Israel, now that all was out, still stood with mute respect before him. The king, turning suddenly, walked rapidly away from Israel a moment, but presently returning with a less hasty pace, said, "You are rumoured to be a spy—a spy, or something of that sort—ain't you? But I know you are not—no, no. You are a runaway prisoner of war, eh? You have sought this place to be safe from pursuit, eh? eh? Is it not so?—eh? eh? eh?"

"Sir, it is."

"Well, ye're an honest rebel—rebel, yes, rebel. Hark ye, hark. Say nothing of this talk to any one. And hark again. So long as you remain here at Kew, I shall see that you are safe—safe."

"God bless your majesty!"

"Eh?"

"God bless your noble majesty?"

"Come—come—come," smiled the king in delight, "I thought I could conquer ye—conquer ye."

"Not the king but the king's kindness, your majesty."

"Join my army—army."

Sadly looking down, Israel silently shook his head.

"You won't? Well, gravel the walk then—gravel away. Very stubborn race—very stubborn race, indeed—very—very—very."

And still growling, the magnanimous lion departed.

This is neatly and dramatically written. It is by no means the best passage in the book; but it will do to whet the reader's appetite, and to make him follow the example of Master Oliver Twist, and—"ask for more."

BOOKS ON OUR TABLE.

A Glossary of Military Terms: intended as a Handbook for Senior Officers, Candidates for Commissions, and Readers of Military History.

Longman, Brown, Green, and Longman.

Lives of Men of Letters of the Time of George III. By Henry, Lord Brougham, F.R.S., &c. Richard Griffin and Co.

History of the Catholic Missions among the Indian Tribes of the United States, 1523-1854. By John Gilmary Shea. Trübner and Co.

The World as a Workshop: or, the Physical Relationship of Man to the Earth. By Thomas Ewbank. Trübner and Co.

Israel Potter: his Fifty Years of Exile. By Herman Melville. G. Routledge and Co.

Small Farms: a Practical Treatise, intended for Persons inexperienced in Husbandry, but desirous of Employing Time and Capital in the Cultivation of the Soil. By Martin Doyle. G. Routledge and Co.

The Courier to St. Petersburg, the Charge, and other Poems. Binns and Goodwin.

The Arts.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION.

We have only space and opportunity this week, to indicate briefly the general character of the Royal Academy Exhibition. The collection contains some few pictures which are certainly equal, perhaps, in one or two cases, superior in merit, to the best works exhibited last year. But these examples of success are so rare, and the examples of failure are, on the other hand, so numerous and flagrant, that the Exhibition must be pronounced a decidedly inferior one as a whole—inferior, not only to the picture-show of last year, but even to the picture-shows of many years before that. This unsatisfactory result has, we believe, been in great part produced by the disgraceful incompetence and injustice of the Hanging Committee—the very worst, we feel tempted to say, that ever misused

opportunities and misjudged pictures since Academies and abuses first existed! When we enter on the subject at greater length next week, we propose to direct the attention of our readers especially to the senseless, unjust, and (in some cases) audacious arrangement of the pictures this year on the Academy walls. At present, it will be more useful if we confine ourselves to mentioning a few of the best pictures, which it is desirable that spectators should especially look out for, on a first visit. Among the figure-pictures, there are three which are, in very different ways, admirable as works of genuine High Art. The noble picture of the "Rescue" by Mr. MILLAIS, stands first in the order of merit as a work exhibiting the highest originality, the most genuine dramatic vigour, and the finest technical qualities of any in the exhibition. Next comes Mr. LESLIE's exquisite scene from "Don Quixote," one of the very best pieces of genial humour and masterly character-painting that he has ever produced. And next to this work, we rank the "Life and Death of the Duke of Buckingham" (in two companion-pictures) by Mr. EGG. The choice of subject here is excellent, and the treatment (in the case of the picture illustrating the death of Buckingham especially) impressive and dramatic in the best sense of the word. The greatest advance on former works has been accomplished by Mr. HOOK—who has two delightful pictures of cottage life. The greatest Academical fuss—if we may use so small a word in relation to so great a body as the Royal Academy—has been made about a large picture of the "Triumph of Cimabue," by a new artist—Mr. LEIGHTON. This work neither deserves its good place on the walls, nor its noisy Academy reputation. It is a tame, conventional picture—apparently promising great things, at a distance, and performing none of them on close inspection. Among the landscapes, the large canvases of Mr. STANFIELD and Mr. ROBERTS, will speak for themselves. Mr. CRESWICK has a river-scene (painted in conjunction with Mr. ANSELL) the distance and sky of which are especially excellent. Mr. LEE's landscapes are so chalky in effect, so false in treatment, and so lamentably conventional in subject, that they had better be avoided by all visitors to the Academy who admire and understand Nature. But we have no space this week to warn people off the bad pictures. They will require an article to themselves.

THE OLD WATER-COLOUR SOCIETY.

We never remember seeing a better collection of drawings by the Members of this Society than the collection which they are now exhibiting. Not the landscapes only, but the figure-subjects as well, are in many cases of the highest order of merit as works of Art. Taking the figure-pictures first, it is pleasant to be able to record the success of a young artist, who is, we believe, a new member of the society—Mr. F. W. BURTON. This gentleman has a drawing of "Peasantry of Upper Franconia waiting for Confession," which, in composition, colour, and graceful adherence to Nature, is one of the most beautiful works of water-colour art that we ever had the pleasure of looking at. Mr. BURTON has a second and larger drawing of "Pilgrims in the Cathedral of Bamberg," even more admirable as a composition than the "Peasantry waiting for Confession," but inferior to it both in colour and effect. Mr. TOPHAM presents the result of his recent experiences in Spain, in the shape of two drawings, excellently studied from nature, and delightfully rich and harmonious in colour. Mr. CARL HAAG has been all the way to Montenegro in search of materials for his art, and exhibits some picturesque specimens of the people of that interesting and little-known country, which are especially noteworthy for their vigour of treatment and look of local truth. Mr. J. F. LEWIS has two small eastern scenes, which in their exquisite minuteness and delicacy of finish are nothing less than marvellous. The drapery on the camel's back, in No. 135 ("The Well in the Desert"), is in itself a perfect triumph of detail, obtained without any sacrifice of effect. Both this drawing and its companion are really and literally unique. Mr. ALFRED FAIRP, too, has done his best drawing this year. He appears, as a colourist, to striking advantage in "Peasants of Olevano returning from Labour." Mr. HUNT exhibits more of those exquisite little pictures—it seems incorrect and unfair to call them drawings—which have for so many years past ranked among the chief attractions of the Old Water-colour Exhibition. He has, this year, one portrait of himself (thinly disguised under the title of "Le Malade Imaginaire"), making a very *very* face over some very nasty-looking physis, which for quaint, irresistible humour, is, in our opinion, the best work of its class that he has ever produced.

The landscape painters have not been behindhand in contributing to the excellence of the exhibition. The finest among the many fine drawings this season, is a sea-piece (No. 186) by Mr. S. P. JACKSON. The effect of July heat is conveyed with exquisite power, softness, and brilliancy. The smooth, hot sea, the white mist of heat hanging above and on it, the lazy dropping over of the small shore waves, and the sultry brightness and dryness high up on the beach, are expressed with the most surprising, the most perfect truthfulness. Next in merit to this beautiful drawing we are disposed to place Mr. DUNCAN's "Harvest Morn"—a lovely effect, conveyed with delightful softness and delicacy. Mr. RICHARDSON has two views in the Bay of Naples, which are admirable in their atmospheric treatment. Mr. BRAMWICH's "Pool on the Conway"—Mr. DAVIDSON's "Haymaking"—Mr. CALLOW's "Distant View of Edinburgh"—Mr. NAYTEL's brilliantly-painted "North east Coast of Guernsey"—and Mr. BRANDLING's careful and interesting studies of the architectural beauties of Bureberg—are all, in various ways, drawings which rank among the foremost attractions in the collection. Many other charming works, which we have not unfortunately space enough to mention, we must leave our readers who intend to visit the Room of the Old Water-colour Society, to find out for themselves. We have sincere pleasure in assuring them beforehand that there is hardly such a thing as a bad drawing to be found in the whole Collection.

THE NEW WATER-COLOUR SOCIETY.

This exhibition is scarcely up to its own standard in past years. We cannot, by any means, ascribe this to the members who have left it, although we no longer find DAVIDSON and some others, who have passed over to the senior society. HENRY WARREN, the President; WEHNERT, CHARLES WRIGHT, JOHN ABSOLON, LOUIS HAGHE, EDWARD CORBOULD, and several others, who have materially contributed to the repute of the brotherhood, are still working in it characteristically. Yet the total effect falls short of that which we have expected from the experience of past years. HAGHE, for example, who has so often given us striking pictures of interiors, hardly does himself justice, either in striking effect, or in dramatic interest. There is no denying the masterly execution of the little picture on the screen—"Work First and Play Afterwards"—intended to display costume and furniture; but the effect does not pass the matter-of-fact, and the composition is tame. There is something wearisome in the general influence of the exhibition from the constant repetition of the same subjects. There may be variety, but there is no novelty. Yet novelty of object, where there is not some strong dramatic or historic interest, is surely essential to a real living interest in a picture. The scene in which Mr. HENRY WARREN places the figures of Adam and Eve has a certain grandeur, yet it is a landscape

treated with a dramatic power of the palette very much after a manner familiar to us for years and years past. HENRY WARREN can deal with subjects that require vigour and grandeur; but this year he is more successful in a Scotch girl, who is exclaiming with some softness and *naïveté* "Ye hae tellt me that afore, Jimmy."

Some of the landscapes, of course, are excellent. Among the best are, "St. Germain l'Auxerrois, Paris," by D'EOVILLE; the "Place de la Basse Vieille, Tour, Rouen," by J. S. PROUT, and a "Norman Doorway," by CHARLES VACHER.

Mr. EDWARD CORBOULD is ambitious as usual, and strong in the still life of historical painting. "Paul and Silas in Prison at Philippi," where the prison is rent by an earthquake during a thunder-storm, is powerfully painted in the riven timbers, the flashing light, the extinguished torch, the glittering armour, and so forth; and the story is passably told.

Amongst the more interesting pictures of the exhibition are what seem to be the pencil products of Mr. JOHN ABSOLON's recent "Travels in France"—"Boulogne in 1804," where Napoleon gives liberty to two English sailors who wanted to cross the Channel in a cock-boat; "Albert's arrival in 1854;" "Going to Market—Creecy," a peaceful scene on the old battle-field—these are amongst the most fresh and interesting pictures in the exhibition. They are drawn very carefully—with considerable exactness; with plain tints, not attempting very great gradation; and with a lightness and breadth that give the whole effect of nature. The very life of painting lies in this escape from routine; and it would be well for the painters of the New Water-colour Society if more of them were aware of that simple fact.

MR. ALBERT SMITH.

On Wednesday "MONT BLANC" was crowded for the THOUSANDTH time, and Mr. ALBERT SMITH is still in the ascendant. Indeed, we see no reason why he should not be "in for another thousand," for the attraction is undiminished, and even the badness of the season and the bitterness of the times are scarcely felt within the Egyptian Hall. This unparalleled success is completely justified by the character of the entertainment, in which all ages and all tastes find something to amuse, and if Mr. ALBERT SMITH will pardon us for saying so, something to instruct.

To us the constant charm of an evening with Mr. ALBERT SMITH is the easy, conversational tone of the host, which places you at once at your ease in a social and friendly manner, and which identifies the enjoyment of the audience with the delightful good humour of the lecturer. As it was said of a perfect lady, that to love her was a liberal education, so it may be said that to pass an evening with ALBERT SMITH, is to make the happiest and liveliest of tours without fatigue, and without those petty miseries which are the moral baggage of continental travellers.

It is not only a *Spectacle dans un fauteuil*, but a *Voyage dans un fauteuil*, with a companion whose spirits never flag, whose observation never fails, whose resources are never exhausted. Mr. ALBERT SMITH has been sometimes regarded in one aspect only—as a literary caricaturist. He won his spurs, no doubt, in a field most dangerous to followers. But since the appearance of "Mont Blanc" he has become familiar to an immense public as a humourist of amazing versatility, touching almost all arts, and speaking almost all tongues; as a man of feeling as well as fun, of heart and imagination as well as of common sense and vivacity, as one who can be grave as well as gay, composed as well as "fast," serious and refined as well as rattling and uproarious. *On est toujours l'esclave de son premier talent*, and Mr. ALBERT SMITH, always, it is true, a bit of an iconoclast, has scarcely been able to escape the consequences of his original reputation. But it is not difficult to trace a thoughtful vein of sincere admiration for all that is beautiful, and of respect for all that is noble amidst all that merciless mimicry and that incessant *feu de joie* of jokes. Mr. ALBERT SMITH can feel and describe the awe of the solemn night and the splendour of the lonely dawn amidst the eternal snows, and he can descend from the mountains to catch the passing follies of our friends and our cousins on their travels, and in the "Galignani" song condense the news of the world into a sparkling shower of epigrams with a facility, an abundance, a *briso* quite irresistible.

Going up the Rhine, or through Holland, Switzerland, and Italy with Mr. ALBERT SMITH, you get to know really more of the life of those countries and of the habits of the people than in reading a hundred dull books of travel, made up of *ex post facto* sentiment and remarks, as per Murray. We can only advise such of our gentler readers as were not present at the thousandth performance, to remember (when the *two thousandth* comes) that a bouquet is presented to every lady in the stalls on these occasions. Meantime, let us advise all who want to know how to spend an evening most agreeably to look in at the Egyptian Hall, where, in a picturesque chalet, in the midst of fountains and flowers, and all sorts of pleasant reminiscences of foreign travel, you are chatted to by a gentleman *de la meilleure compagnie*, who has plenty to say, and says it in the happiest manner, who sings a capital song in any language, and accompanies himself upon any instrument; where Mr. BEVERLEY's magic pencil brings the lakes, the rivers, the mountains, the busy streets before you "like life," but life looking its best; where invisible, soft music, "brings delight and bores not." That Mr. Albert Smith should have been able to entertain the public for a thousand days, almost without interval, is itself a miracle of energy and animal spirits. How manfully must he have struggled against headache, against influenza, against low spirits, and other inevitable ailments which afflict even the liveliest humanity, and yet, from first to last, he has never disappointed the public by "indisposition." May he live to ascend Mont Blanc (in Piccadilly) a thousand thousand times, and may we live to accompany him!

ROYAL GALLERY OF ART.

This handsome series has now reached a considerable number of parts, and we have before us no fewer than eighteen of the plates. The collection of modern English artists appears thus far to consist of a very good choice out of their works. We have highly characteristic specimens of LAWRENCE, ROBERTS, STANFIELD, JENKINS, UWINS, MACLISE, ARMYTAGE, and even some of the younger men whom fatalities of one kind or another have prevented from attaining to their maturity in art—such as TOWNSEND. A very graceful sketch of "Ariel" by him is of the collection. The plates continue to be executed with the clearness and brilliancy that we observed at first. The whole forms a work calculated to be of an exceedingly popular kind, good in itself and perfectly intelligible to the vulgar. Amongst the plates there is HOGARTH's portrait of "Garrick and his Wife"—a picture that combines the interest both on account of the artist and of the two people. Any one who looks upon this picture can well understand all the accounts of GARRICK's versatility and force both as a comic and as a tragic actor, there is so much vivacity, mobility, strong feeling, and strong marking in the countenance.

LOST IN THE ICE.—Mr. Joseph Were, an Englishman, together with two companions and four boatmen, were recently lost on the ice in endeavouring to cross from Cape Timentine to Prince Edward's Island. Mr. Were, in a letter to a friend, gives the following account of their sufferings:—"For several hours the weather was propitious; then it changed to a heavy snowstorm, which drenched us to the skin; but we still made our way on, fully expecting to reach the island the same evening. When we came within a mile and a half of our destination, the snow was so densely thick we could not make our way through it; the night coming on, we thought it advisable to encamp on a sheet of ice, having no covering whatever to shelter us from the weather. The next morning we found we had drifted at least five miles off from the island; and we immediately mustered all hands, using every exertion imaginable to reach the land. There was a mile and a half of water to cross before we came to the island, and the waves were running so high, the boatmen said it would be impossible to cross; we then put back again, until we came to a sheet of ice, in despair. It was very cold; and in order to keep ourselves warm we took our clothes from our trunks and nailed them before the mouth of the boat. By break of day we held a consultation on the best course to steer; my advice was to make for the nearest land on the Nova Scotia side. We toiled on the whole day, and towards evening came in sight of the land, when we again encamped on a sheet of ice. Next morning, we found ourselves in a deplorable state of hunger and deprivation, not having partaken of any nourishment since we left. The men declared they would not go any further without some nutriment. Then was depicted the passion of man—selfishness alone prevailed, and man became a brute. Fortunately I had a little spaniel dog, which they seized upon with the greatest avidity, and, after draining every drop of its blood, ate the flesh raw, the young doctor partaking with them; that renewed their strength, and we again set forward for the land. About eleven o'clock, Dr. Hazard was taken delirious, and I saw his time was come to leave this world. I then threw my great coat over him, and after an hour's moaning he passed into eternity without a death-struggle. I told them it would not do to sleep out again, or we should all be dead; and, after constant toil and exertion, we reached the land about six o'clock the next morning, in a deplorable condition, being badly frost-bitten. I sank down in the boat in a state of stupor, while the men went in search of aid, which they fortunately found in the course of two hours."

MURDER OF AN ENGLISH GENTLEMAN IN SPAIN.—Mr. Fenton, from Yorkshire, has been shot dead by two Spaniards, on the road from Algeciras to Tarifa. It appears that the deceased was pursuing his way, accompanied by his sister, to a farm at some distance from Algeciras, in order to obtain a regular supply of pure milk, when he was waylaid and killed. An investigation of the crime was entered upon by the authorities at Algeciras, and the murderers have been apprehended. The body of the deceased was brought over to this side of the bay, and buried in the Protestant Cemetery.—*Gibraltar Chronicle.*

THE FRENCH GENERAL BIZOT has been killed by a rifle-bullet in the trenches.

A NEWLY-DISCOVERED PLANET.—On the night of April 19th, Herr R. Luther, of the Observatory of Bilk, near Düsseldorf, discovered a new planet of the eleventh magnitude, describing its orbit between Mars and Jupiter. This is the forty-third planet of our solar system.

THE LATE IMPERIAL VISIT.—Previous to taking his departure from Buckingham Palace, the Emperor of the French left 1500*l.* to be divided amongst the royal servants, in the following proportions:—500*l.* to those employed in the Lord Steward's department; 500*l.* to those in the Lord Chamberlain's department; and 500*l.* to the grooms and servants in the department of the Master of the Horse. The issue of orders to view the apartments at Windsor Castle lately occupied by the Emperor and Empress, has commenced; but the number of those who have hitherto availed themselves of the privilege is inconsiderable.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, May 1.

BANKRUPTS.—WILLIAM WHALEY, Charles-street, Camberwell New-road, builder—WILLIAM BAKER, Cumberland-market, licensed victualler—GEORGE EDWARD NEAL, Pembury, Kent, innkeeper—JOHN KENNEDY, Aldersgate-street, printer—JOSEPH SALT, Longton, Staffordshire, timber merchant—EDWARD WESTON, Dudley, Worcestershire, hosier—JOSEPH MARSDEN, Balsall-heath, Worcestershire, licensed victualler—GEORGE ISAAC WARD, Leicester, fishmonger—GEORGE RICHARDS, Aller, near Langport, Somersetshire, innkeeper—FREDERICK WILLIAM HOLMES, Leeds, wine merchant—WILLIAM JENKINSON, Ecclefield and Sheffield, paper manufacturer—SAMUEL MAKANT, Whalley, Lancashire, cotton spinner—JAMES HOLMES, Lancaster, builder.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—DOUGLAS and BAIRD, Edinburgh and Bradford, wine merchants—A. M'RAE, jun., Dingwall, draper—H. BAIRD, Glasgow, grocer—J. DUNCAN, Greenock, druggist.

Friday, May 4.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—WILLIAM HOLLADAY and JAMES GLENNON, Watling street, City, mantle manufacturers.

BANKRUPT.—JAMES VERITY, Leicester-street, Regent-

street, boot and shoemaker—CATHERINE DIXON, Lymington, Southampton, tailor and mercer—WILLIAM HARDING, Holborn, baker—HENRY OFFENHEIM, Ramsgate, ship chandler—JOHN FLATT, Saxmundham, Suffolk, draper—SAMUEL HODGSON, Great Marlebone-street, stationer—GEORGE EDWARD NEAL, Pembury, Kent, innkeeper—HANSARD JACOBSON BRIDGES, Vauxhall Brewery, Wandsworth-road, brewer—WILLIAM ROSE, Bishopsgate-street Without, stationer—GEORGE FREDERICK LILLICAP, 29, Bishopsgate-street Without, grocer—HENRY ROBINSON, Broadwood, Stafford, malster—HENRY BARBER, Kidderminster, licensed victualler—JOSEPH RICKARD, Boscote, Cornwall, draper—RICHARD MORGAN, Dowlish, grocer—SAMUEL LOWE, Derby, silk manufacturer—THOMAS MEDDINGS, Chadwell-court Mill, Staffordshire, miller—EDMUND STEVENS, Walsall, draper—JOSEPH BELL, Little Bolton, Lancaster, cotton spinner—JOHN BURTON and ROBERT EDWARD REES, South Hamlet, Gloucestershire, barge and boat builders—JOHN HOSKIN, Blackburn, Lancashire, currier and leather cutter—HENRY HAWKEN DYER, Boscote, Cornwall, grocer and draper.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—DAVID NICOL, Linlithgow, merchant—RICHARD MATTHEW PEARCE, Glasgow, steam-packet agent—JOHN CRAIG WYLIE, Glasgow, commission merchant—JAMES CAMPBELL and Co., Glasgow, machine makers.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

DOUGLAS.—April 21, at Springwood Park, prematurely, Lady Scott Douglas, a daughter, stillborn.
ENNISKILLLEN.—April 28, at 108, Eaton-place, the Countess of Enniskillen, a daughter.
FALMOUTH.—May 1, at Mereworth Castle, Viscountess Falmouth, a daughter.
KENNEDY.—April 28, at 59, Eaton-square, the Lady Gilbert Kennedy, a daughter.
HESKETH.—May 1, at Rufford Hall, the Lady Arabella Hesketh, a daughter.
HOPE.—April 28, at Cheltenham, Lady Hope, a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

COOKE-BAKER.—April 21, at the parish church of Newington, Oxfordshire, by the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Oxford, the Rev. Henry Fennant Cooke, rector of Nuneham Courtney, Oxon, to Janetia, youngest daughter of the late Worshipful and Rev. James Baker, Chancellor of the Diocese of Durham, and rector of Nuneham Courtney.
PIGOT-CLINTON.—April 21, at St. James's Piccadilly, Robert Pigot, Esq., nephew of the late General Sir George Pigot, Bart., of Palsall, to Anna Maria third daughter of the late General Sir William Clinton and the Lady Louisa Clinton.

DEATHS.

BISHOP.—April 30, at his residence, 13, Cambridge-street, Hyde-park, Sir Henry Rowley Bishop, aged sixty-eight.
BURGOYNE.—May 1, in Eaton-square, Catherine, relict of the late Major-General Sir Montagu Roger Burgoyne, Bart., of Sutton Park, Bedfordshire, aged eighty-two.
CORRY.—May 1, at Paris, after a protracted illness, Armar Lowry Corry, Esq., Rear-Admiral of the White, aged sixty-two.
FLINT.—May 1, at 77, Cadogan-place, Lady Flint, relict of the late Sir Charles William Flint, aged seventy-one.
ROSE.—April 27, at St. Leonard's, Lady Rose, of Hyde-park gardens.

Commercial Affairs.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Friday Evening, May 4, 1855.

A FEW speculative transactions in Consols have taken place during the week. The continued gloomy accounts from the seat of war, and the evident uneasy state of feeling on the part of the Government, coupled with their contradictory, half-sulky, half-jocular replies in the two Houses of Parliament to serious questions asked by different members—the continued easterly winds and the state of the crops crying out for rain—doubts about Austria—and the attempt to assassinate Louis Napoleon—here are reasons enough for a continued flatness in Consols and other stocks; the only fillip they have had was yesterday, money being much easier. The Bank lowered the rate of discount again, and Consols improved one quarter per cent. In the Railway Share Market all is flat; nothing doing. Many dealers have quit their several markets and gone into Consols; this took place about the time of the new loan being dealt in. It is not much inquired after.

Mines are flat. In United Mexicans there has been a good amount of bargains previous and subsequent to the arrival of the mail. They are flat to-day, so we may conclude that there has been no very favourable news.

Banks and land companies remain nearly the same; what little business there is doing the Consul market takes. Turkish Scrip falls and rises with Consols to a greater degree, being a more sensitive plant. The feeling is evidently downwards, and nothing but the plethora of money and distaste to employ it keeps things so high. We shall have a fall in Consols before the rain, even with the prospect of the June dividend.

Consols close at four o'clock, 88½, 89 firm; Paris prices come better; Turkish 78½, 4; Russian Fives, 98, 100; Omnium, 4½ pm.

Caledonians, 59, 59½; Eastern Counties, 11, 11½; Great Northern, 88½, 89½; ditto, A stock, 72, 74; ditto, B stock, 123, 125; Great Western, 63½, 64; London and North Western, 97½, 97½; Midlands, 68½, 68½; South Eastern, 59, 60; Oxford and Worcester, 25, 25; South Devon, 12, 12; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 7½, 7½; Luxembourg, 14, 14; Eastern of France, 34½, 35; Paris and Lyons, 23½, 24; Paris and Orleans, 45, 47; Great Northern of France, 34½, 34½; Paris and Rouen, 39, 41; Paris and Havre, 34½, 34½; Namur and Liege, 54, 54; Great Western of France, 5, 6 pm.; Great Western of Canada, 18½, 18½; Great Trunk of Canada, 84, 84; East Indian, 23½, 24; Bombay and Baroda, 1, 1; Agua Fria, 1, 1; Colonial Gold, 1, 1; Linars, 5, 5 pm.; Ponticault, 144, 154; Imperial Brazil, 2, 2½; Coates, 24, 3; St. John del Rey, 31, 33; Waller, 1, 1; United Mexican, 64; Australasian Bank, 79, 81; Oriental, 35, 40; London Chartered Bank of Australia, 20, 21; Union of Australia, 67, 69; Australasian Agricultural, 28, 30; North British Australasian Land and Loan, 4½; Scottish Investment, 14, 14; Crystal Palace, 34, 35; South-Australian Land, 35, 37; Canadian Government 108½, 108½.

CORN MARKET.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening, May 4, 1855.

THOUGH the supply of English and Foreign Wheat is moderate, and the weather continues cold and dry, the

advance which took place at the commencement of the week has not been exceeded, buyers manifesting extreme caution, and holders being equally firm; the amount of business done has consequently been limited, and the price is now meets a better sale than on Monday. Some instances is, over the prices of that day has been obtained. Harley, with a short supply is in pretty good demand, and over Monday's prices. There is a fair supply of Oats, which meet a ready sale at 6d. to 1s. over Monday's value. Beans and Peas, remain unaltered in price. Some cargoes of India one at 49s. 6d. cost, freight and insurance. The last sale of Beheira was 45s., but it is now held for 48s. A cargo of Salomica Wheat has been disposed of at 60s. and two cargoes of Saidi Beans at 35s., cost, freight, and insurance, but they are now held for more money.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK. (CLOSING PRICES.)

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
Bank Stock	210	211	211	211	211	211
3 per Cent. Red.	87½	88½	87½	87½	87½	87½
3 per Cent. Con. An.	88½	88½	88½	88½	88½	88½
Consols for Account	88½	88½	88½	88½	88½	88½
2½ per Cent. An.	90	90	90	90	90	90
New 2½ per Cents	90	90	90	90	90	90
Long Ans. 1860	90	90	90	90	90	90
India Stock	Shut.	Shut.	Shut.	Shut.	Shut.	Shut.
Ditto Bonds, £1000	12	15	15	15	15	15
Ditto, under £1000	12	15	15	15	15	15
Ex. Bills, £1000	7	7	7	7	7	7
Ditto, £500	7	7	7	7	7	7
Ditto, Small	7	7	7	7	7	7

FOREIGN FUNDS.

LAST OFFICIAL QUOTATION DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY EVENING.

Brazilian Bonds	99½	Russian Bonds, 5 per	86½
Buenos Ayres 6 per Cts.	53½	Centes, 1822	86½
Chilian 5 per Cents.	53½	Russian 4½ per Cents.	87½
Danish 5 per Cents.	53½	Spanish 5 p. Ct. New Act.	87½
Ecuador Bonds	53½	Spanish Communes	87½
Mexican 3 per Cents.	20½	of Comp. not fun.	44
Mexican 5 per Ct. for	20½	Venezuela 8½ per Cents.	44
Acc. May 16.	20½	Belgian 4½ per Cents.	44
Portuguese 4 per Cents.	41½	Dutch 2½ per Cents.	44
Portuguese 3 p. Cents.	41½	Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif.	44

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE

Lessee and Manager, Mr. ALFRED WIGAN.

Monday, and during the week, will be performed

TIT FOR TAT.

Characters by Messrs. A. Wigan, F. Robson, Emery, Misses Maskell, Bromley, and Ternan.

After which, THE WELSH GIRL.

Characters by Messrs. Emery, Leslie, Danvers, Miss Stephens and Ternan.

To conclude with THE YELLOW DWARF.

Characters by Mr. F. Robson, Miss Julia St. George, Mr. E. Ormonde, Miss Maskell, Miss Bromley, and Mr. Fitzalan.

AMERICAN SARSAPARILLA.

A OLD DR. JACOB TOWNSEND'S AMERICAN

SARSAPARILLA. This is, of all known remedies, the most

pure, safe, active, and efficacious in the purification of the

blood of all morbid matter, of bile, urea, acids, scrofulous

substances, humours of all kinds, which produce rashes,

eruptions, salt rheum, erysipelas, scald head, sore eyes and

ears, sore throat and ulcers, and sores on any part of the

body. It is unsurpassed in its action upon the liver, the

lungs, and the stomach, removing any cause of disease from

those organs, and expelling all humours from the system.

By cleansing the blood, it for ever prevents pustules, sores,

pimples and every variety of sores on the face and breast.

It is a great tonic, and imparts strength and vigour to the

debilitated and weak, gives rest and refreshing sleep to the

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THE LATE SIR HENRY R. BISHOP.

May 7, 1855.

PARTICIPATING with the public sympathy, and universally and so warmly expressed at the recent decease of Sir HENRY R. BISHOP, the Committee of his friends, who only a few days since undertook the responsibility of appealing to public benevolence for the relief of his family, feel it incumbent upon them to continue their efforts in behalf of his two young children—a Son and a Daughter—who are left totally unprovided for.

It may be necessary to state, that the chief anxiety of Sir HENRY BISHOP, during his recent sufferings, was the future prospects of these two children; and it is, therefore, with feelings of public sympathy and public benevolence, and with the assurance that the Committee will be supported and assistance as shall enable them to hold a commission which, under circumstances of more than ordinary interest, has devolved upon them.

Among the Subscriptions already Received are:

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J. Field, Esq.	5	0	0
C. Mauley, Esq.	5	0	0
Mr. Godfrey, Band Master of the Coldstream Guards	3	0	0
And. &c. &c.			

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Sir George Smart, 91, Great Portland-street;
Dr. Henry Daniel, 43, Clarges street;
Mr. Addison, 210, Regent-street; and
Mr. Mitchell, Royal Library, Old Bond-street.

THE LATE SIR HENRY R. BISHOP.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA, COVENT GARDEN. GRAND EVENING CONCERT, FRIDAY, MAY 18, 1855, for the Benefit of the youngest children of the late Sir HENRY R. BISHOP.

The Committee for conducting the Vocal Concert advertised to be given for the Benefit of Sir HENRY R. BISHOP, beg to announce that, in consequence of the lamented death of that esteemed Composer, the Concert is deferred until FRIDAY, MAY 18th, on which Evening it will take place at Covent Garden Theatre—the scene of BISHOP'S early successes—by permission of FREDERICK GYE, Esq., for the benefit of Sir HENRY'S Two Youngest Children, a Son and Daughter, who are left totally unprovided for.

The Committee have to acknowledge the generous manner in which nearly the whole of the Profession in London have proffered their gratuitous services, as well as the extreme kindness of Mr. GYE, in having granted the free use of the Theatre for an occasion of more than ordinary interest.

The concert will consist of Solos, Duets, Quartettes, and Concerted Pieces, selected exclusively from Sir HENRY BISHOP'S numerous compositions, which will be executed with unexampled efficiency by the following Artists:—

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The Chorus will be augmented to more than 300 Voices, accompanied by a complete Orchestra of Eighty Performers:—Conductors, Mr. STERNDALE BENNETT and Mr. A. MELLOR—Mr. LINDSAY SLOAN will preside at the Piano-forte—all of whom have most kindly volunteered their gratuitous assistance.

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